

Steamshovel Press #13

did not appear as a magazine, only as a chapter in the back-issue anthology, **Popular Alienation**. The following pages contain all material from that anthology that was not published in magazine form in Steamshovel Press.

Popular Alienation: A Steamshovel Press Reader



Edited by Kenn Thomas

Copyright © 1995 by Kenn Thomas
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper or broadcast.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Popular alienation : a Steamshovel press reader / edited by Kenn Thomas.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 1-881532-07-0

1. United States—Politics and government—1945-1989.

2. United States—Politics and government—1989.

3. Conspiracies—United States. I. Thomas, Kenn, 1958- II. Steamshovel press.

E839.5.P67 1995

973.92—dc20

95-34668

Cover art by Martin Cannon

IllumiNet Press

P.O. Box 2808

Lilburn, Georgia 30226

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America

"Recent history is the record of a vast conspiracy to impose one level of mechanical consciousness on mankind..."

—Allen Ginsberg

Acknowledgements

Steamshovel Press owes its greatest debt to the patience of Beth, Sara and Simon, the editor's wife and two children. Trips to the post office, time on the phone, face-to-face and radio interviews, writing, production and distribution of the magazine all inevitably make cuts into quality time with the family, time already intruded upon by the day job as well—but the catching up is always fun.

Steamshovel's second greatest debt is to Jim Martin, CEO of *Flatland Books* and *Flatland Magazine*. Jim not only does the graphic design for *Steamshovel*, but he has provided it with much sage wisdom and guidance through the tangled web of zine production and distribution. He also came up with the title of this book. Jim has been a gracious host during my visits to San Francisco and his shop in Mendocino. He deserves large credit for encouraging many writers and researchers to pursue their work, giving honest assessments of the available *oeuvre*, and providing a means to pursue research—all with a money-back guarantee.

The third nod goes to Ron Bonds, the proprietor at IllumiNet, for making this volume possible in the first place. Ron is the logical successor to such alternative journalists as Richard Shaver, Penn Jones or, perhaps more appropriately, Harold Weisberg, in that his wares primarily come in the form of quite remarkable books. This includes not only what IllumiNet offers through its book catalog, but the line of obscure titles it publishes utilizing the ufological public record and research more completely than virtually any other publisher. *Steamshovel* has received no shortage of good business advice from Ron as well.

Particular computer problems posed by the production of *Popular Alienation* were resolved by Joe Rottman. *Steamshovel Press* also needs to thank Joyce Bauer at Missouriian Publishing for her great help in getting the magazine printed.

A long list of correspondents and acquaintances deserve much credit for allowing me to bounce ideas off them, supplying research and leads and discussing the broader implications of what gets printed in *Steamshovel*. These include Len Bracken, Tom Brown, David Hatcher Childress, Tom Christopher, Loren Coleman, Jim Cregan, Dr. James DeMeo, X. Sharks DeSpot, Roy Dripps III, Dave Emory, Happe, Wayne Henderson, Bob Heyer, Al Hidell, Alex Horvai, John Judge, Jim Keith, John Kimsey, David K.M. Klaus, Louis Krasser, G.J. Krupey, Jenny Ledeen, Roy Lisker, Sean Mansfield, Judy Miller, Ray Neike, Mark Oakes, Preston Page, Adam Parfrey, Keith Preston, Brian Redman, Steve Richardet, Duncan Roads, Sherman Skolnick, C.D. Stelzer, Jonathan Vankin, David Vincent, Alfred Vitale, Wendy Wallace and Robert Anton Wilson. Time, space and a poor memory makes this list extremely abbreviated and I apologize in embarrassment for the names that inevitably got left off. Everyone who writes to or for or otherwise interacts with *Steamshovel* contributes to what Jim Martin might call a synergistic whole greater than the sum of its parts and deserves great credit and appreciation. I admire each of these people individually and marvel at their collective work-democratic spirit.

What's Inside

Introduction	13
Chapter 1: Steamshovel Press #4, 1992	
Tales of Abbie Hoffman: Jack Hoffman Interviewed by Kenn Thomas	17
JFK Redux: The Role of Richard Nixon and George Bush In The Assassination of President Kennedy by Paul Kangas	20
Black Holes and the Trilateral Commission by Roy Lisker	24
The Multi-Screen Setup by Walter Alter	26
The Kabbalah Papers	28
A Gemstone Darkly by Jim Keith	32
Mysterium Coniunctionis: On The Hidden and Oppository Parallels Between Anti-Esotericist Conspiratology and Traditional Esoteric Teachings by Tim O'Neill	34
Hotel Kalifornia by Wayne Henderson	36
Wilhelm Reich Died For Einstein's Sins by Jim Martin	39
Or Was it the Sins of the Air Force? by Kenn Thomas	41
Book Reviews	42
Chapter 2: Steamshovel Press #5, Summer 1992	
JFK Redux: Interviews with Mark Lane, Kerry Thornley, Jim Marrs and Dick Gregory	46
Presidency-as-Theater by John Robert Martin	61
KKK, GOP and CIA by Tim Wheeler	64
An American Nazi and Ozark Tourism by Kenn Thomas	65
A Modest Enquiry: Some Possible Problems with a New Santa Cruz Anti-Discrimination Law by Robert Anton Wilson	67
Is Language A Language Language? On the Analytic Systems of Noam Chomsky and Heinrich Schenker by Roy Lisker	71
Book Reviews	72
Saucer Section: Whose Saucers Are They? by Jim Keith	75
Supermarket Tabloids and UFOs by X. Sharks DeSpot	77
Chapter 3: Steamshovel Press #6, Winter 1992	
JFK Redux: An Interview With Deborah Davis	79

Has Carbon Dating Buried The Shroud? by John Hayward	86
The Vatican's Alliance With Reagan by Tom Flynn	90
When Lenny Bruce Played St. Louis by Kenn Thomas	92
Italian Air Space Mystery by Jim Cregan	94
Wilhelm Reich In Hell by Jim Martin	95
Saucer Section:	
The Octopus Conspiracy: Fictional Tale or Fractional Trail? by Kenn Thomas	98
"Uncharted Areas of Space and Science" An Interview with Stanton Friedman	102
Book Reviews	105
 Chapter 4: Steamshovel Press #7, 1993	
Conspiracy Writers Interviewed: Jonathan Vankin, Robert Anton Wilson, John Judge	109
Science As Credo by Roy Lisker	117
Virtually Reality by Jim Keith	121
Phenomicon by Len Bracken	122
The Promis Threat by Kenn Thomas	123
A Party At Tim Leary's	126
Saucer Section:	
Winged Cats, Mothmen and UFOs by John Keel	129
UFOs and Fugos by Terry Sofian	131
JFK Redux:	
Oswald, Reinhard Gehlen and Clinton-Gore by Carl Oglesby	132
Ustica Under-Reported by Jim Cregan	135
Book Reviews	136
Holocaust Revisionism: "Myth" or Free Inquiry? by Bradley Smith	139
 Chapter 5: Steamshovel Press #8, Summer 1993	
An Interview with Stephanie Caruana	141
Phillip K. Dick and the Illuminati by Jim Keith	144
Mae Brussell: Secret Service Files on the Queen of Conspiracy Theorists by X. Sharks DeSpot	148
Saucer Section:	
An Interview with Sean Morton	151
Puerto Rico, Nukes and UFOs by Scott Corrales	154
An Interview with Lars Hansson	156
The Rose, The Cross, The Scimitar and the Unicorn by Timothy J. O'Neill	160

JFK Redux:

Interview with A.J. Weberman by Kenn Thomas	173
Of Exiles and Exegeses by Adam Sosostris	175
Raiders of the Lost Shroud by Preston S. Page	179
Quigley, Clinton, Straight and Reich by Jim Martin	183
Things Are Gonna Slide	188
Book Reviews	189
Recommended Zine Reading	193

Chapter 6: Steamshovel Press #9, Fall 1993

Allen Ginsberg Discusses J. Edgar Hoover, the Fall of the Soviet Union, the Drug War and Teaching Poetry	194
King Co-Opted; Abbie Assassinated: An Interview with Dave Dellinger by Kenn Thomas	197
Virtually Reality by Jim Keith	200
"Europe Calling! Pound Speaking!" by P.S. Waddell	201
Saucer Section:	
Secret Research On Antigravity and Space Flight Organized by the German Secret Societies During World War II by Vladimir Terziski	204
Bovmut: The FBI and Cattle Mutilation by X. Sharks DeSpor	207
viral def(l)ections by Carl Steadman	210
"Only A Pawn..." Bob Dylan, Lee Harvey Oswald and MK-ULTRA by Bob Heyer and Kenn Thomas	212
On The Usefulness of Conspiracy Theories by Len Bracken	215
For the Other Side of the Pond: Ustica Tales by Jim Cregan	216
A Green Conspiracy by Wayne Henderson	218
Book Reviews	221
Things Are Gonna Slide	224
Recommended Zine Reading	230

Chapter 7: Steamshovel Press #10, 1994

An Interview with Dave Emory	231
JFK Redux:	
Shut Up, Roll Over and Go Back To Sleep: JFK's Assassination Has Been Solved For You, Gerald Posner Deconstructed by John Kimsey	237
Saucer Section:	
Secret Service Masers Kill and Make Whores by An Awakened Sleeper Unit	241
Of Steven Seagal and Bud Culligan: A Conversation With Lars Hansson	243
Thieves of Knowledge: The Vanishing Place of the Muses by John S. Craig	247
Virtually Reality by Jim Keith	249

Quigley Live!	
<i>by Len Bracken</i>	251
What Aren't We Being Told, Exactly?	
<i>by Scott Corrales</i>	253
Was the CIA Involved in the Spadafora Assassination?	
<i>by Gabriela Selser</i>	255
Who Shaped History: Vampires Or Gods?	
<i>by William Meyers</i>	257
Book Reviews	259
Things Are Gonna Slide	261
Conspiracy in the Clinton Era	
<i>by Kenn Thomas</i>	263
 Chapter 8: <i>Steamshovel Press #11, Summer 1994</i>	
Zero Waste: From Phalanstere to Biosphere	
<i>by Jim Martin</i>	269
JFK Redux:	
Chicago Conspiracy Researcher Sherman Skolnick Sounds Off	
<i>An Interview by Kenn Thomas</i>	273
Can Anyone Verify Fletcher Prouty's ID Of Lansdale and Conein in Dealey Plaza?	
<i>by Jack White</i>	281
The Fate of Lew Welch	
<i>by Chris Roth</i>	285
The Encryption/Decryption Dickwads of Cipherspace	
<i>by Raleigh Muns</i>	287
Book Reviews	289
Things Are Gonna Slide	294
 Chapter 9: <i>Steamshovel Press #13 Summer 1995</i>	
Please Note: Like the infamous Grudge 13 report of <i>Project Blue Book</i> , this issue does not really exist—but it does. It is not available as a magazine and only appears in this volume.	
Sagan Sees A Moonbase	301
JFK Redux:	
Johnny Meyer: Gemstone's Link Between Howard Hughes and Aristotle Onassis	
<i>by Gerald A. Carroll</i>	303
Tom Slick - Mystery Man	
<i>by Loren Coleman</i>	305
Saucer Section:	
Black Cars At Night: The Men in Black Reanimated	
<i>by Scott Corrales</i>	320
Undeclared War Exists	
<i>Faxed by Norman Olson</i>	324
Carlos Castaneda: Criticisms and Conspiracies	
<i>by Tom Lytle</i>	326
Caries, Cabals and Correspondence	330
Book Reviews	331
Shootings From the Hip and Shootings From The Lip, But Jess's Only Joking	
<i>by John Kimsey</i>	337
Contributor Notes	341
Appendix A	343

Introduction

Allen Ginsberg predicted the Kennedy assassination. Readers can find this in *Journals Early Fifties Early Sixties*, a volume of Ginsberg's personal writings produced by Grove Press in 1977 and edited by Gordon Ball. The prediction appears in an entry entitled "Dream, Oct. 31, 1959":

"Depression, couldn't get to typewriter after running round town on Burroughs business—contract maybe to transfer from Wyn Co. to Avon to get him money—sat & read *Look* mag at Dr's office, 14 St. accompanying my brother to his checkup—all about 1960 presidential races, Kennedy's politicianings & shiftiness—He has a hole in his back. Thru which Death will enter." (p. 111)

According to the magic bullet theory, the back wound traveled up and out JFK's throat, despite being shot from the elevated position of the sixth floor of the book depository. *Steamshovel Press* readers know that JFK's death, indeed, may have also entered through the back, but it did not exit through the throat. Arlen Specter, who authored the convoluted and contradictory magic bullet theory, at this writing has begun his own campaign for the White House.

Ginsberg's weirdly precise premonition gets mentioned in the introduction to this anthology in part to deflect criticism that the disparate elements comprising *Steamshovel Press*—political assassinations, the Beats, UFOs, plagues, plots and conspiracies—have no relationship. It also appears because the earliest inspiration for *Steamshovel* began during a week-long party Allen Ginsberg threw at the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1982. In observance of the 25th anniversary of the publication of Kerouac's *On The Road*, Ginsberg and his colleagues at the Naropa Institute organized a conference of lectures, workshops and debates by the likes of Tim Leary, Abbie Hoffman, William Burroughs, Gregory Corso, Diane DiPrima, Peter Orlovsky, Anne Waldman and the rest of the familiar crew at the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics.

I met long-time *SP* correspondent and contributor Roy Lisker at that conference, had to rescue him, in fact, from the Denver Greyhound Bus security office. The Greyhound gendarmes hauled Lisker off after he demonstrated his unusual form of chanting poetry to people in the terminal awaiting their ride into Boulder. The gendarmes could not have paid a greater compliment, especially considering that for many years they had no doubt become accustomed to the creative and unusual behavior of those attracted to the Kerouac school. The bust served as enough of a credential for me to offer Lisker crash space at the U. of C. dorm building where I stayed for the week.

We spent some of the week comparing notes. At the time, I did free-lance writing for local and regional papers and also worked as the rock critic for St. Louis' old *Globe-Democrat* newspaper. Lisker published, and still publishes, a photocopied 8x10, folded-over newsletter of commentary, poems and essays entitled *Ferment!* While I dutifully attended beatnik workshops, he spent much of the conference trying out his chants on the masses, which had assembled more to see the counter-culture celebrities and partake of the beach acid and other inebriants. The conference participants did put on quite a show. Abbie Hoffman and Tim Leary had perhaps their greatest show-down; Gregory Corso publicly razed several fellow Beat icons; panels plucked the memories of honored Beat veterans to verify rumors about their lives and examine their legal history; Robert Franke screened his movies, *Pull My Daisy* and *Cocksucker Blues*; David Amram did a remarkable concert; a falling-down drunk Chogyam Trungpa nevertheless let loose with a wise Buddhist homily and hand-signal; and Ginsberg introduced a new song entitled "Birdbrain" with a new-wavish band called the Gluons.

Identifying the conference participants as "heros of the 60s", or even as Beats, hippies, hipsters or "the counter-culture" is useful only to a media that needs a cubbyhole or an intelligence agency looking for something to infiltrate. In fact, Abbie Hoffman made the point there that the word "beatnik" originally served as a Red smear, from the Soviet Sputnik satellite. The suffix "nik" actually helped non-Beat America to reduce the whole generation to a *Mad Magazine*-type lampoon, with a parade of peaceniks, no-goodniks, etc. Although some of the personalities that participated in the Kerouac conference have since died—Abbie chief among them—Ginsberg and company still provide a powerful voice of opposition to crushing corporatism, mindless consumerism, over-industrialization—the culture at large. I make this observation despite the fat book contracts enjoyed by some of the Beat elite, the rock'n'roll retinues and rumors of their own links to the CIA. There is conspiracy fodder here yet to explore, but a deconstruction of the Beats as sell-outs to the status quo seems as fruitless as boxing them in as relics of a particular

decade. The *On The Road* week served as an inspiration, a gift of manic energy that kept on giving for many in attendance for quite some time. With me, it later re-surfaced in the form of *Steamshovel Press*.

The enormity of celebrity did seem to stand between the Beats and their progeny that week, however. The conference gave ample opportunity for unknown poets and non-poets to vent their spleen at open mikes, and the Beat celebrities made themselves available after workshops and inter-mingled often with their students. They were up on a pedestal, however, and even Lisker's chants could not find a spot on the roster of the poetry competition made up entirely of known Beat celebs. Alienated even from this group, only the small-group open mikes—and maybe a future issue of *Ferment!*—remained for the creative expression of others. I attended a few of these, regarding a well-conceived rant as a thing of beauty as I do, and discovered some but surprisingly few people ranting about conspiracies. Of all the sub-cultures that *Steamshovel* taps into—at UFO conferences, JFK symposia, militia gatherings, New Age bazaars—I have re-discovered many times that literary gatherings, poetry readings, are the poorest opportunities to sell copies of the magazine. Although interested, poets lean toward self-absorption—and usually have their own book to push.

I did little with the lessons learned at the Kerouac conference until an interview with Ram Dass in 1988 failed to find publication in the St. Louis press, where the philosopher/psychologist even had an appearance it could help promote. The interview took the form of a *Ferment!*-sized newsletter circulated among the handful of people in town who would have an interest. Although it was a small, photocopied zinelet, it had enough substance to send to book publishers to entreaty them for books to review in future issues. The first three issues of *Steamshovel Press* served that function, in addition to finding a home for the conversation with Ram Dass, as well as a later one with Imamu Amiri Baraka that also did not seem to hold the interest of the local media. Baraka's connection to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York (Oswald was the only member of the New Orleans chapter) provided *Steamshovel's* first push away from literary themes to conspiracy theory.

As the magazine's mission evolved and production values improved, *Steamshovel* no longer made these available as back issues and their content is not included in this volume.

Popular Alienation begins with *Steamshovel Press* #4. By the time of the third issue of the "old" *Steamshovel*, energies were waning in the conspiracy research community. Mae Brussell died in 1988 and her heirs embroiled themselves in combat over the disposition of her legacy, which included a vast library that still has no public access. Bob Banner, who had long published a journal/magazine named *Critique*, the only regular newsstand outlet for conspiracy research and scrubbed-up rants, abandoned the effort in favor of joining an interpersonal self-development group. When a friend with access to printing equipment offered free printing allowing *Steamshovel* a larger format and print-run, it seemed like a good opportunity to shift its focus from literary angst to alienation central, another nebulous underground sometimes cubbyholed by the media as "conspiracy theorists."

In fact, the media often pairs the word "conspiracy" with the word "theory" in much the same way as the word "Beat" was wedded to the suffix "nik," as a means to diminish the assertions of certain writers and researchers. Readers will discover, however, that while *Steamshovel* contributors do offer theories, they carefully document them with verifiable facts and references when possible, while not shying away from logical conclusions where smoking guns have long been buried. *Steamshovel* also includes ample doses of satire, lampoon and self-lampoon (particularly in *SP4*) and critiques of political, religious, scientific and computer cultures. The magazine makes no attempt to reconcile the multiple points of view, to make the research community speak in a single voice, or to fit what it prints into a particular left-right political mold. If I had to select a favorite among particular philosophical paradigms discussed in *Steamshovel Press*, I would choose Vladimir Terziski's bulletin board model from chapter 6. The magazine, however, keeps its editorial voice as silent as it can, attempting to give an unfiltered voice to the contributors—a commitment to individual insight and expression that it picked up from the Kerouac conference. *Steamshovel Press* contains rants, to be sure, but rants of erudition and documentation, not "theories" that have no basis in reality.

Enough copies of *Steamshovel* #4 sold to raise money for *SP5*, a full-size, 60-64 page newsprint, newsstand magazine that prints the gamut of conspiracy-related material, and each issue has sold enough copies to produce the next issue and allow some room for growth. Since *SP10*, the magazine has included a glossy cover; the current issue includes the Mark of the Beast, the UPC code; circulation figures have improved by ten times since *SP4*—although by a definition that would include *Time* and *Newsweek*, "popular" may not be the best word to describe interest in the magazine, save among the alienated (it did make the first of *Factsheet Five's* Top Ten zine lists). Although attention has been paid to it by such mainstream sources as *The Smithsonian*, the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*, *Steamshovel Press* remains a part of the marginal press, not available in bookstores where the Conspiracy prevails.

Steamshovel Press does have seventeen distributors in seven different countries, however, in lieu of the maga-

zine wholesalers that prefer to shove such sham corporate journalism as *Time* and *Newsweek* down the throats of the discerning newsstand reader. *Steamshovel* also deals directly with bookstores interested in stocking more than fifteen copies on consignment. If readers of *Popular Alienation* have had trouble finding *Steamshovel*, please complain to bookstore management. They can pick up *Steamshovel* from the following partial list of distribution services: AK Distribution (Scotland and San Francisco); Arcturus Books; Armadillo and Company; Counter Productions (England); Daybreak Distributors; Desert Moon (505-474-6317; xines@nets.com); Fine Print (512-452-8709; mags@bga.com); Marginal (Canada; 705-745-2326); Network Distributors Limited (New Zealand); New Leaf (404-699-7213); News Agents Direct (Australia); Don Olson Distribution; Tower Records and Magazines; Ubiquity (718-875-8047); Zed Distribution (Canada; 519-570-2196).

I initially made the mistake of telling some of the writers that *Steamshovel* intended eventually to pay its contributors with coin of the realm. As the complications of zine economics interfered with that goal, only two contributors gave up in frustration. One of them actually sued me and was laughed out of court. The contributions of both have been left out of the current volume. Otherwise, *Popular Alienation* contains the complete content of issues 4-11 of *Steamshovel Press* (sans the letters pages, which were cut for space reasons), plus a virtual issue, #13 (Chapter 9). *Steamshovel* subscribers should note that their subscriptions have been bumped up a number and the delivery of issue #14 will arrive at the time #13 would have otherwise.

Paying money to contributors remains one of *Steamshovel's* great ambitions, and it even has paid small sums for research and one contribution. For the most part, however, readers will find here research and writing that has been done only for the sake of revealing hidden truths, regaling others with satire or enlightening them with explorations of the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of conspiracies, or just bringing a new perspective to a larger community. The only guaranteed recompense for the work is three contributor copies. Circumstances might change by the time potential contributors read this volume, but this is the bottom line that all such contributors should understand. They should also know that contributions work best when limited to 3500-5000 words and have been submitted in IBM format. These technical requirements should not discourage writers, however. Scribble a rant on a banana peel, and *Steamshovel* will at least consider it for publication—as long as the sources check out.

Another connection between the Beats and JFK: someone named Bill Burroughs ran the concession stand at the Texas Theater when Oswald walked in. That qualifies only as a coincidence. When the police followed, this Burroughs directed them—perhaps inadvertently—to the balcony, although Oswald had gone in on the ground floor. That would qualify as a synchronicity, if one thinks that this is what *the* Burroughs might have done, give a little breathing space to the hapless patsy in his deadly encounter with a Nova-like mob. Arthur Koestler explains synchronicity as serial coincidences that have meaning, an acausal principle that presents a real challenge to the study of physics. Koestler's 1971 book, *The Case of the Midwife Toad*, which documents the story of how biologist Paul Kammerer (who counted Wilhelm Reich among his students) articulated the concept, which Kammerer called seriality, before a conspiracy to sabotage his work drove him to suicide. Jacques Vallee has gone on at length in his 1979 book, *Messengers of Deception*, about the notion that personal computer technology, through things like boolean searches, utilizes synchronicity as a functioning principle. Vannevar Bush, a scientific advisor to Truman, predicted the rise of personal computers in 1947 in an essay entitled "As We May Think". Bush is also one of the alleged signers of the infamous MJ12 documents. Like any good conspiracy theory, these connections require some participation and judgement from the reader (maybe the real Burroughs would have sent the police right to Oswald), allow little room for closure (unless the reader is prepared to confess to a full understanding of Jacques Vallee) and, hopefully, like much of the present volume, stretch boundaries of understanding.

Kenn Thomas
Editor/Publisher
Steamshovel Press
April 18, 1995
St. Louis, MO



Seamushevel Press editor/publisher Kenn Thomas. (Photo: Linda Belford)

9

Steamshovel Press #13, Summer 1995

Sagan Sees a Moonbase

“Prof Says Beings From Outer Space Visited Earth,” from *Stars and Stripes*, Monday, November 26, 1962:

Some of the best scientific minds in the country were stumped when a slender, dark-haired young man chalked on the blackboard this equation:

$$N \text{ equals } R \text{ FP NE FL FI, FC L}$$

The speaker was Dr. Carl Sagan, a 28 year old assistant professor of astronomy at Harvard University.

His audience consisted of several hundred members of the American Rocket Society, gathered for his luncheon address.

The equation was his way of expressing the mathematical probability that intelligent beings from outer space have visited earth.

Sagan soberly explained that in his equation N stands for the number of advanced civilizations in the universe possessing the capability of interstellar communication.

R is the mean rate of star formation averaged over the lifetime of the galaxy.

FP is the fraction of stars with planetary systems.

NE is the mean number of planets in each system with environments favorable for the origin of life.

FL is the fraction of such inhabited planets on which intelligent life with manipulative abilities rises during the lifetime of the local sun.

FC is the fraction of planets populated by intelligent beings on which an advanced technical civilization rises.

And L is the lifetime of this technical civilization.

Sagan said information in his formula is based on current estimates by astronomers. In making calculations, he assigned each symbol an arbitrary numerical value.

As expressed in numbers, Sagan said, the formula means that at least 1 million of the 100 billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy have planets which have developed civilizations capable of travel between the stars.

“Let’s say that each of these civilizations sends

out one interstellar expedition per year,” he said.

“That means that every star, such as our sun, would be visited at least once every million years. In some systems where these beings found life, they would make more frequent visits. There’s a strong probability, then, that they visited earth every few thousand years.

“It is not out of the question that artifacts of these visits still exist or even that some kind of base is maintained, possibly automatically, within the solar system, to provide continuity for successive expeditions.

“Because of weathering and the possibility of detection and interference by the inhabitants of earth, it would be preferable not to erect such a base on the earth’s surface. The moon seems one reasonable alternative.

“Forthcoming photographic reconnaissance of the moon from space vehicles—particularly of the back—might bear these possibilities in mind.”

At a news conference Sagan predicted man himself would be capable of interstellar flight at close to the speed of light “within a century or two.”

Asked if he believed in flying saucers, he said: “I do believe there are objects which have not been identified.”

Steamshovel Debris: “It’s never been, ‘Oh, gee, this is nothing like what I had imagined,’” comments Carl Sagan about the growth of his scientific understanding in the January/February 1995 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*, “Just the opposite: It’s exactly like what I imagined.” Whether Professor Sagan is embarrassed by his early equations about life in space or MJ12 got to him, as some Steamshovel readers have suggested, his SI article underscored his real fear that others still add it up the same way he did in 1962: information overload, bane of the acid head. “If you are awash in lost continents and channelling and UFOs and all the long litany of claims so well exposed in the *Skeptical Inquirer*, you may not have the intellectual room for the findings of science.” While this does not really

seem to be a problem with those interested in such "fringe" topics, the skeptics do seem to have their problems managing information. In the following issue of SI, a review of a panel on conspiracy theories identified the author of *Crossfire*, a much respected work on the JFK assassination by Jim Marrs used in part as

the basis of Oliver Stone's JFK movie, as Jim Morrison. Jim Morrison, of course, sang with a rock band called the Doors and served as the subject of another Oliver Stone movie.

Johnny Meyer: Gemstone's Link Between Howard Hughes and Aristotle Onassis

by Gerald A. Carroll

Aristotle Onassis carries out a carefully planned event: He has [Howard] Hughes kidnapped from his bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel, using Hughes' own men (Chester Davis, born Cesare in Sicily, et al). Hughes' men either quit, get fired or stay on in the new Onassis organization.

Gemstone 1:9

One of the more amazing, and seemingly implausible, aspects of the long-maligned Gemstone thesis is this wild tale about Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis masterminding a kidnapping of billionaire defense contractor Howard Hughes in 1957. Researchers who have bothered to dig around in the Gemstone legend have often kissed it off as a fabrication because of a lack of "proof" that any of the events described actually took place—the most flagrant falsification being this "kidnapping and switch" of Hughes, by Onassis or anyone else.

But a closer examination of the Gemstone language and some cross-referencing with news accounts of that time paint a dramatically different picture, one of deception of the highest degree.

For example, the Gemstone thesis states Hughes men either quit, get fired or stay on in the new Onassis organization—following the alleged kidnapping of Hughes in the Bahamas in the spring-summer of 1957. Indeed, key people did peel off quickly and suddenly in 1957. Noah Dietrich, one of the Hughes Corp.'s mightiest chief executives, was suddenly "fired" by Hughes in 1957. (1) Long-time aide William "Bill" Gay abruptly resigned, citing "mononucleosis" as the cause (2) under mysterious circumstances. Even publicist Carl Byoir mysteriously died right before that ill-fated trip to Nassau (3). It was Byoir's public relations firm—which served the Hughes Corp. for years, even after Byoir himself passed away—that provided "doubles" including L. Wayne Rector. These doubles were well-known to Hughes's aides.

Also well-known was a special man named Johnny W. Meyer, who started out with Hughes in the early years as a personal driver and became one of the billionaire's closest confidantes. He set up elaborate Hughes parties, including attractive female escorts, with such high-rollers as Elliott Roosevelt, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's son and a maverick arms dealer on the side.

Meyer is clearly one of the men who "stay on in

the new Onassis organization" after the events of 1957. In fact, it was Meyer who broke the news to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis that her husband, Aristotle, had died of respiratory failure on March 5, 1975. (4) Strangely, Jackie had left her sick husband's bedside and was skiing in New Hampshire when Ari passed on. Meyer, like he did for Hughes, had to do the dirty work. He notified Jackie of yet another dead husband.

Meyer himself died under even more strange conditions. He allegedly got out of his car one night in Florida in 1983 to relieve himself following his attendance at a party—and the car rolled over him, killing him. (5)

Clearly, it was Meyer who was the common thread between Howard Hughes and Aristotle Onassis. He was a skilled public relations expert, and manipulated the media at every turn for both men over the years. If Onassis ever wanted to conquer Hughes—even kidnap him and replace him with a double—he would need the help of Meyer to cover it up and keep a lid on it for years. The existence of a man of Meyer's abilities is enough to give the Gemstone passages a sense of truthfulness regarding this bizarre kidnap story. The skills that propelled the rotund Meyer to prominence in the Hughes organization peaked when he covered for the billionaire in embarrassing situations, particularly the so-called Brewster Hearings of 1947, engineered by muckraking Sen. Owen Brewster (R-Maine) when it had become known that Hughes' airplane contracts with the government were questioned.

It was intrepid Hearst Corp. Newsmen Bob Con-sidine who blew the lid off this story, exposing Hughes, Elliott Roosevelt and the velvet cover Meyer had placed over the whole sordid mess. Hughes and Elliott loved to party together and Meyer set up these affairs. Brewster and others were convinced that Elliott used his influence as the president's son to seek "the intercession of his father in order to override Army Air Force objections" to aircraft supplied the U.S. armed forces during World War II. (6)

Hughes was angry that an earlier warplane design of his was rejected by the Army Air Force—a record-breaking design that later became the model for the Japanese Zero, one of the most deadly warplanes of the war. (7) Meyer got tangled up in the mess when he allegedly "entertained" high government officials

lavishly in order to sway their opinions of Hughes' airplane deals. Many of those parties also included Elliott and his new wife, Faye Emerson.

Considine, with some help from The Associated Press, originally broke the story on Aug. 3 by releasing a lengthy expense-account list of Meyer's excesses "duly recorded by Hughes' bookkeepers. (8) Meyer's P.R. skills were evident when he was accused of ordering Elliott to stay in Europe—and out of the U.S.—until the 1944 elections were over and his dad was safely re-elected.

Then, astonishingly, at the height of the Brewster Hearings and the public outcry they were precipitating, Johnny Meyer disappeared. With the key witness gone, the hearings collapsed. (9) An international manhunt was launched to find the portly Meyer. The next day, Hughes triumphantly left Washington for California to the cheers of a supportive public (10). Meyer resurfaced in Hollywood on Aug. 17, 1947, but by that time, the hysteria over the Brewster Hearings had subsided and his client, Howard Hughes, was temporarily off the hook.

Three years later, Meyer dabbled in oil-rig investments in Wyoming, a deal that would inevitably lead him to Onassis, who at that time in 1950 had tried to monopolize the oil-shipping routes from Saudi Arabia. (11)

Fast-forward to 1957, and it was duly noted that Meyer received a \$104,666 "loan" from Equitable Plan Company that he was under no obligation to repay (12). The timing, September 1957, is absolutely vital, for that was just after the kidnap and switch of Howard Hughes was rendered complete in August, according to the Gemstone thesis, and Hughes' personal aide Donald Neuhaus (13). Was that "loan" part of a payoff to Meyer for his cooperation?

And that was not the end of the story. Another disclosure of an additional \$125,000 "loan" to Meyer from Equitable was made on Sept. 6, 1957. Congressional investigators, weary of Hughes-related probes, gathered sketchy, hurried testimony from Meyer and others and ended up clearing Meyer of any wrongdoing. The coincidences, however, are disconcerting and

lend more credence to the Gemstone account (14).

Another damning piece of information that would link Meyer to any kidnap plot is the fact that he, along with Bill Gay, accompanied Hughes on that ill-fated trip to Nassau by way of Montreal—from Hughes headquarters in Beverly Hills (15). Meyer stayed with the Hughes party the entire time the billionaire stayed in Nassau.

Later, when he openly switched to Onassis, one of Meyer's chief jobs was to keep a full-time watch over Jackie (16). As always, Johnny Meyer did his boss right.

Notes:

1. Carroll, Gerald A., *Project Seek: Onassis, Kennedy and the Gemstone Thesis* (1994, Bridger House), p. 78.
2. Carroll, p. 334.
3. *San Francisco Examiner*, Feb. 4, 1957.
4. Heyman, C. David, *Cosmopolitan*, August 1989, p. 164, *Jackie: The Onassis Years*.
5. Davis, L.J., *Onassis: Aristotle and Christina*, 1986, St. Martin's Press, p. 273.
6. Considine, Bob, *San Francisco Examiner* (International News Service), Aug. 5, 1947.
7. Considine, *Examiner* (INS), Aug. 10, 1947.
8. Associated Press, *Examiner*, Aug. 3, 1947.
9. Considine, *Examiner* (INS), Aug. 12, 1947.
10. *Examiner*, INS, Aug. 13, 1947.
11. Lloyd, Ed C., *Examiner*, "Reports from the Oil Fields," July 15, 1950.
12. *Examiner* (INS), "\$104,666 Loan Sans Obligation Told at Hearing," Sept. 4, 1957.
13. Carroll, p. 89.
14. *Examiner* (INS), "Johnny Meyer's Equitable Co. Loans Revealed," Sept. 6, 1957.
15. Serling, Robert, *Howard Hughes' Airline, an Informal History of TWA*, 1983, St. Martin's Press, p. 121.
16. Caruana, Stephanie and Brussell, Mae, *Playgirl*, November 1974, "Is Howard Hughes Dead and Buried Off a Greek Island?"



John Meyer (left), attorney for Howard Hughes, assisting Elliott Roosevelt (right), son of FDR, against charges that Hughes paid the hotel bills for Roosevelt's wild parties. (Photo: Gerald Carroll)

Tom Slick - Mystery Man

by Loren Coleman

The study of hidden animals, zoological species as yet not scientifically accepted but for which testimonial and circumstantial evidence exists, was, during the 1950s, formally given the name "cryptozoology" by the French zoologist Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans (1993). Early in the history of cryptozoology, an unusual man was attracted to the young science. His name is Thomas Baker Slick - Tom Slick to his friends, and as it would turn out, to most of the rest of the world for a brief time. What little is remembered today about Tom Slick is associated with his expeditions in 1957, 1958 and 1959, in pursuit of the abominable snowmen of the Himalayas, the elusive yeti of the Sherapa. But there seems to have been other sides of Tom Slick. As the Texas writer Dennis Stacy once noted, Tom Slick is today Texas' "forgotten millionaire." Indeed, Tom Slick was a shadowy figure who died very mysteriously in 1962, but looking at his life and his death, as I have done in the last twenty years, has turned me down many intriguing paths. As one treks down the trail of Tom Slick, a lurking question keeps popping up: was cryptozoology used as a front to hide a covert cryptopolitical agenda?

Beginnings

We really do not know much about young Tom's early life. Born into a wealthy Texas oil family, his choices were clearly already set up for him - to go into his father's business, but young Tom had other ideas. He was an adventurer at heart. However, the beginning was a classic privileged one. His first two years of high school were spent at Oklahoma City's Classen High School. Tom's father died in 1930, and the next year Tom went to Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. Dating from 1781 and nestled among stately elms in the 1930s, Phillips Exeter was and is an old college-preparatory school of the highest academic and social standing. The sons of Presidents Lincoln, Grant, and Cleveland attended the school. Politically forward thinkers from Daniel Webster to the Democratic Senator from West Virginia, Jay Rockefeller, attended Exeter. Cofounder of the Americans for Democratic Action Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., for example, was an upperclassman at the same time Tom Slick was there.

While at Exeter, Tom was mainly involved in his studies and chasing young women, according to a friend he made there who would remain close to Tom until his death. Stewart Strong ("S.S.") Wilson, who I

interviewed in 1989, was Tom's closest friend at Exeter, then also at Yale. Coming from Oracle, Arizona, Wilson found that Slick and he were immediately drawn to each other because of their common interests in the Spanish language, Mexican food, ranching, and dating. Wilson recalled that Slick was very handsome, and rather popular with "the ladies." Tom did have time to be a coxswain on the Academy's rowing crew team, as well (Slick, 1989). Tom also was the President of the Southern Club (Exeter, 1934). On campus, Tom Slick wore a long black overcoat and black Stetson hat, and is said to have relished the label of Southwestern nonconformist he was given at Exeter (Lubar, 1960). In 1934, Slick graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy.

The Young Man and The Loch Ness Monster

After his graduation from Phillips Exeter, Tom Slick would go to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Here, Slick was a member of the residential college of Pierson, and became a member of the Political Union. Tom's academic record was good; he ranked a second or third during his first three years, and eventually graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1938, as a pre-medicine biology major (Yale, 1989). I have been unable to determine what secret society Slick joined, if any, although he is not listed on any of the published Skull and Bones lists.

S.S. Wilson, Slick's friend from Exeter, as noted, was at Yale, and roomed with Slick. The two buddies were constantly together, and most of their activities overlapped. For example, Wilson managed the Pierson football team on which Slick played. But mainly, according to what Wilson remembered, Slick, Wilson, George Nichols, John Francis, John Nelson, and Rawson Goodwin all were members of an informal group who would get in Slick's car and take trips to Vassar, Smith, and Wellesley to spend weekends socializing with "college girls" (Wilson, 1989).

In addition, I discovered from casually talking to Wilson that during their Yale years, Slick actually went to Loch Ness and looked for the Loch Ness monsters, the large humped beasts said to resemble gigantic long-necked seals or waterbound dinosaurs. Since a new road was dynamited around the hills of Loch Ness in 1933, scores of sightings have occurred. During the summer of 1937, Slick, Wilson, Nelson, and Goodwin took Slick's 1934 maroon Buick sedan aboard the *Bremen*, debarked in Germany, and then

drove 10,000 miles all around Europe. During August, 1937, the group, at Slick's urging, traveled to Scotland's fabled Loch Ness. They spent a few days talking to residents about the reported monsters, and searching the water's surface for any signs of the creatures. They definitely stayed for a time in Inverness and Drumnadrochit. The latter village is located on Urquhart Bay, site of the ancient Urquhart Castle and location of numerous monster encounters. Around the time Slick and his party were at Loch Ness, one of the more memorable monster sightings occurred from a tea-room at the Halfway House near Foyers. In August, 1937, the Reverend William Graham saw two separate four feet high humps, the color of an elephant, creating a heavy wake as the creature moved along at thirty-five miles an hour (Whyte, 1957). But the Slick group was to see nothing. For Slick, however, his search for unknown animals had begun. The Loch Ness monsters really got Slick excited, his friend told me (Wilson, 1989). From Europe, Slick's friends would return with his car to America while Tom went on to Russia to allegedly see what it was like there before going home. We do not know what Slick did in Germany or Russia during his pre-War World II visits to these politically important nations.

Playboy Slick and Howard Hughes

For a year or so after graduating, Slick lived in Oklahoma City, but in 1939, he established his home in San Antonio, Texas, and remained there for the rest of his life. By his late thirties, Tom Slick, like his father, had turned prematurely white-haired. This did not diminish his good looks, and in his bachelor days (and apparently during his marriages) he kept the company of many attractive socialites and budding Hollywood starlets. Thomas Baker Slick, Jr. was an attractive man, and he seemed to have known it. Some five feet, eleven inches tall, he was always fit and trim, never weighing much over one hundred and seventy pounds, even into his forties. An early contact in California was Howard Hughes. They both were from Texas and shared much in common including traveling, women, Hollywood, inventions, the oil and airline industries, and the intelligence business. Tom Slick and Howard Hughes became such close friends that they had adjoining cottages at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Like Hughes, Tom was not your typical jet-setting playboy, for he was excited by stimulating conversations with his female associates as well as by his allegedly frequent sexual encounters.

One of the many stories about Tom Slick is that he, like Hughes, had more than a passing interest in Las Vegas. Slick, it was rumored, had a large financial interest with Mickey Cohen in the town's first

casino, La Rancho Vegas, until it burned down. Slick is even reported to have known Jack Ruby and assisted with the early running of guns to Cuba for the Mafia, using a Florida branch office, Transworld Resources as his avenue of delivery for the mob and, possibly, some hidden federal agency. Transworld Resources, a Slick-owned company, publicly was said to hold mineral rights to locations in Mexico, Alaska, and California. What is known for certain is that Tom Slick had been involved with the CIA for a long time, via Slick Airways.

Saipan and the CIA

During World War II, Slick volunteered for Navy Service immediately after Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. Turned down for poor eyesight, he served as a "dollar-a-year man," in the role of a shipping officer of the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. for six months. After that he transferred and served for one year as a cargo officer of the Board of Economic Warfare in Chile. The official record tells us that when the Navy relaxed its eyesight requirements, he served in Hawaii, in Saipan, and with the occupation in Japan (Coleman, 1989).

In reality, Tom Slick's military record is not too detailed in the archives I was able to examine. In Saipan, Slick wrote in his short resume, he was a commanding officer of an oil tank farm. The Japanese built a naval base at Saipan when it became their territory in 1919 and maintained it until the United States captured the site in July, 1944. What has only become known years later is that the Central Intelligence Agency's "Special Operations Division had 'a home away from home' under Navy cover on the Pacific island of Saipan" (Marchetti and Marks, 1974). In the early 1950s, Koreans and Taiwanese were the recipients of the CIA's advanced training on Saipan, and apparently starting in 1959, Tibetans came too. "The CIA facility used a military designation, Naval Technical Training Unit, for its cover. Recruits were flown in at night by C-47 aircraft like those of Civil Air Transport. New arrivals were blindfolded on the ground enroute to the base. But the CIA facility had been built on the highest mountain on the island, with surroundings plainly visible to the trainees" (Prados 1986). What was the extent of Tom Slick's involvement with the intelligence community's early development of the Saipan training center? One wonders—was the oil tank farm merely part of the cover story? And how involved was Slick?

Flying Tigers, CIA and Slick Airways

Tom Slick joined his brother Earl in founding Slick Airways in January 1946 to allegedly fill the

void in air cargo freight delivery. Slick Airways and Flying Tiger Lines, during the late 1940s and 1950s, had the corner on the market, and flew many fast-paced and exciting jobs, recalling images we all have from the early scenes in the *Indiana Jones* movies, and John Wayne's 1942 film, *Flying Tigers*. Coming out of the adventurous days of pre-World War II "flying tiger" pilots who "flew the Hump," that is, took cargo over the Himalayas to China, Slick Airways carried on a thrilling tradition. OSS-connected men have had many strange links to these times. The OSS's Colonel Merian Cooper would, in 1942, become Chief of Staff of General Claire Chennault's Flying Tigers in China (Smith, 1972). It was Cooper who was the adventurer and the writer/producer/director of the first *King Kong* movie (1933) starring Fay Wray.

Incredibly, little discussion has ever been made of the similar evolutionary beginnings of Chennault's and the CIA's Civil Air Transport and Air America, and the origins of Earl and Tom Slick's Slick Airways, Inc. Claire L. Chennault, who was born in Texas in 1890 and trained as a military aviator at San Antonio's world-famous Kelly Field, was destined to embody adventure and derring-do. After years of rebuilding the Chinese Air Force, Chennault took command of the Chinese-based American Volunteer Group (AVG) during the summer of 1941. The AVG (or Flying Tigers as they soon came to be known) was initially created to insure the safety of the land supply route from Burma to China. These were the famed pilots who overflew the Himalayas, protecting the transportation of valuable supplies (Leary, 1984).

At the end of World War II, Chennault set about to create a Chinese-based American-owned airline, the Civil Air Transport (CAT). Meanwhile, former members of the AVG in the United States decided to establish two pioneer air freight companies. Robert Prescott, one of Chennault's men, was to head one, Flying Tigers, Inc. The other company was Slick Airways, Inc., which originally started as an idea of Earl Frates Slick, but was something in which Tom Slick quickly became interested. Hiring pilots Earl had once worked with, and buying planes from the military, Slick Airways was the number one air cargo transporter in the 1950s (Davies, 1972; *Business Week*, 1951; Coleman, 1989; Leary, 1984).

In 1950, the CIA secretly purchased Chennault's CAT, and then in 1959, CAT became Air America (Leary, 1984). Other airlines that are connected to the CIA have been mentioned in the public record, such as Air Asia, Southern Air Transport and Intermountain Aviation, but the CIA had retained the right to delete at least one airline from an expose of their proprietary

organizations (Marchetti and Marks, 1974). How deeply involved was Slick Airways in this interwoven network of CIA companies and contracts? Intriguing hints always existed. One individual who evidences a direct connection between Slick Airways and CAT is Robert Rousselot, who worked for both (Leary, 1989). Rousselot was highly regarded by the Central Intelligence Agency:

"Chief Pilot Rousselot was the key link between CAT and the CIA for covert missions.... Rousselot took charge of operational planning and selection of crew. The chief pilot looked for capable, responsible individuals, who would complete a mission if at all possible but would abort when necessary.... As one former case officer recalled, Rousselot always delivered" (Leary, 1984).

Slick Airways was a good idea. It was the cargo freight leader of the U. S., and on April 16, 1951, the company became the world's first operator of the highly revolutionary and specialized cargo plane, the Douglas DC-6A. Shortly American Airlines, then most of the rest of the passenger carriers were jumping into the freight business. Opposition from the commercial airlines seemed to have been behind Slick Airways losing an important decision regarding their merger with Flying Tiger Lines in the late 1940s. Slick Airways never regained its central position, supposedly. The company sputtered along through trials and tests in 1959 and 1965, and was finally bought out by Airlift in 1966. The holding company, Slick Corporation, still has some Airlift stock, but in the 1970s also had interests in Drew Chemical Company and Pulverising Machinery plant (Davies, 1972). Flying Tigers was purchased by Federal Express (now FedEx) in the 1980s.

The CIA expert Professor William M. Leary notes in his book *Perilous Missions* (University of Alabama, 1984) that the Air America precursor, Civil Air Transport (CAT) was very involved with Standard Vacuum Oil Company, as their main supplier of air fuel. Standard Vacuum Oil Company was the employer of Harry Gillmore, Peter Ryhiner's and Tom Slick's man in Sumatra trying to track down more on the orang pendek, the little hairy bipedal unknowns of the woods. From at least the summer of 1958 through the spring of 1959 the Slick-sponsored Ryhiner-Gillmore team operated in Sumatra looking for the orang pendek and the special little hairy rhinos of that island nation. Interestingly, in the secret history of the CIA, 1958 was the year that the intelligence organization supported an anti-Sukarno coup in Indonesia with a fleet of B-26 bombers. On May 18, 1958, one American pilot, Allen Pope, was shot down and captured. According to Victor Marchetti and John D. Marks

(*The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence* 1974, p. 29): "Although U.S. government officials claimed that Pope was a 'soldier of fortune,' he was in fact an employee of a CIA-owned proprietary company, Civil Air Transport. Within a few months after being released from prison four years later, Pope was again flying for the CIA—this time with Southern Air Transport, an agency proprietary airline based in Miami. The CIA later produced a pornographic movie using a stand-in for Sukarno in an attempt to discredit the leader."

What we now know from the release of information in a 1993 Supreme Court case involving the Central Intelligence Agency and E-Systems is that Tom Slick was involved with the CIA via Slick Airways soon after its creation. The case concerns Erwin Rautenberg and his Los Angeles air freight company named Air-Sea Forwarders. Rautenberg agreed in 1956 to let the CIA use his company's name. It became a subsidiary of the CIA proprietary, Air Asia, which was in turn part of Air America and was finally purchased by the covert military intelligence company E-Systems in 1975. Rautenberg sued the CIA because they had walked away from millions of dollars in debts left when they were really using Air-Sea as a front. Almost in passing some interesting notes for our story appeared in the midst of the *New York Times*' May 17, 1993 article on the matter. Edwin Rautenberg is quoted as explaining: "Until 1956, the C.I.A. proprietary worked through a company called Slick Airways. Then they started their own operation and ran immediately into tax problems with the state of California. As a Federal agency, they were tax-exempt, but they couldn't say so. They wanted to maintain their secrecy and still not pay taxes." Rautenberg noted the government did a little research and found that an international freight-loader is tax-exempt in California, looked around and discovered Air-Sea. "They made a deal with me in the late fall of 1956," he said. "An operation would be conducted under the name of Air-Sea Forwarders, it would be an entirely different business." During the Vietnam War, business boomed, but with the fall of Saigon in 1975, the CIA sold Air Asia for a huge loss to E-Systems. Rautenberg, by the way, lost his case because the Supreme Court refused to unseal a secrecy order governing the case. (As a sideline here, President Clinton's very own US Trade Representative Mickey Cantor was Rautenberg's lawyer and it was in his offices where, on behalf of the CIA and the Justice Department, the secrecy order was presented for Rautenberg. A government attorney and Cantor told Rautenberg to sign. Under protest he complied, then sought a new lawyer.)

E-Systems remains in the news. Raytheon (makers

of the apparently less-than-successful Patriot anti-missile rockets) recently took over E-Systems of Dallas, Texas. It will cost Raytheon 2.3 billion dollars in cash. In the story in *The Boston Globe* (April 4, 1995), E-systems is described as "a successful maker of electronic surveillance and communications systems." While Raytheon is noted as wanting this company as a defense industry purchase, Raytheon is painted as a commercial company that has recently been buying "construction, computer networking and washing machines" businesses. It is not until page 22 that we learn "E-5 is an oddity in the defense industry: It is a growing company in a niche largely protected from US budget cuts. The company specializes in electronics for reconnaissance and military intelligence." This is "a part of the defense budget that is probably more stable than others," Lowell Lawson, E-Systems chairman and chief executive officer is quoted as saying (p. 22).

E-Systems will retain its name and corporate headquarters in Dallas where it employs 16,000 people. "Besides spy planes, the company provides electronic systems for Air Force One, the president's plane," noted *The Boston Globe*.

Connections and the FBI

Slick Airways was not Tom Slick's only venture, however. Following the lead of at least three generations of Slicks, Tom was Chairman of the Board of the Slick-Urschel Oil Company, later renamed the Slick Oil Company. Shortly before Slick's death, this company was worth about nine million dollars and Slick owned twenty-five percent of it.

Slick was deeply involved in many other business enterprises as well. He was a partner in Slick-Moorman Land and Cattle Company; Chairman of the Board of Transworld Resources Corporation; Director at Dresser Industries, Bailey-Selburn Oil and Gas Ltd., Dynamics Research, Inc., Dynamics Iron & Steel, Inc., Quanta Electronics Co., Summit Valley Land Corp., Guinea American International Corp., Slick Airways, Inc., Slick Corporation, and Beatrice Perry, Inc. Tom Slick was making major achievements that would be recognized by his being chosen "Young Man of the Year 1948" by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Trinity University in 1953.

Slick had many opportunities to travel to such locales as the Soviet Union, South America, and India, and was in many international networks. In the area of world affairs, the public Tom Slick was supportive of an innovative idea leading to the possibility of international disarmament. Slick wrote two books on the

topic. *The Last Great Hope* was privately published and disseminated in 1951; *Permanent Peace* was printed and distributed fairly widely by Prentice-Hall in 1958. He proposed in these books a plan that promoted world disarmament by way of small national armies slowly decreasing in strength as an international police force backing a global rule of law grew bigger. It was an early version of "The New World Order."

Slick founded the Strategy for Peace Conference. The first and second meetings were held at the Arden House in New York in June 1960 and January 1961. The third took place at the Airlie House in Virginia in October 1961. The fourth was scheduled for November 1962, but with Slick's death in October, it is not certain if the last conference ever took place. It seems rather obvious that he was under watchful eye of the FBI during this time, as my FOIA search reveals documents showing an active investigation of Tom Slick was taking place from January 1961 through February 1962. A memo, with much blacked out, dated January 5, 1961, has the FBI looking into any subversive activities in his background regarding a request from the Army War College National Strategy Seminar, scheduled for June 1961. On February 21, 1962, the US Office of the Attorney General in Washington D.C. has the FBI checking on Slick and fourteen other blacked out individuals for reasons that are so heavily masked as to be unknown. A CIA FOIA came back denying anything was in their files on Tom Slick or Slick Airways!

Slick was a member of an elite circle of internationalists in such organizations as the U.S. Committee for the United Nations - Member Advisory Committee on Education and Public Affairs, as well as the National Advisory Board of the United World Federalists. He joined together such individuals as Cyrus Eaton, Norman Cousins, Jimmy Stewart, Albert Schweitzer, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Winston Churchill, and John Foster Dulles (whose brother was Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency) in his informal group discussions on world peace.

Cryptopolitical and Cryptozoology

Intriguingly, as Tom Slick's role in internationalism began to increase and his CIA covert role with Slick Airways supposedly was on the decrease, the secret war in Tibet appears to have figured in some new interests of his - the search for the abominable snowmen in the Himalayas of the Nepalese-Tibetan border. But what if some of these yeti searches were espionage operations aimed at spying on Chinese military and political activities in Tibet? Before we move into

looking at the Slick expeditions, let us pause and see if there are precursors in the past for such activities. Have cryptozoological pursuits been used and wrapped within elaborate cover stories for politically motivated covert operations?

Historical Background

Individuals important to cryptozoological chronicles have been involved with secret intelligence networks for over two hundred years. For example, in 1769, South American reports of the five-foot-tall ape-like creature called the *didi* were collected by the botanist, naturalist and doctor, Edward Bancroft (Heuvelmans, 1959). Bancroft also called himself Jacobus Van Zandt (Sanderson, 1961), and was an espionage agent.

Dr. Edward Bancroft, internationally known as an expert on tropical plants, is an interesting figure in cryptopolitical history. Benjamin Franklin had sponsored Bancroft for membership in the Royal Society of London. When Franklin was at the American Embassy in Paris, Edward Bancroft, Franklin's friend and chief assistant, organized a cell of British spies, beginning in 1772. During his sojourn in Paris, Bancroft left weekly dispatches for the British written in invisible ink between the lines of love letters of a "Mr. Richardson" and placed in a bottle in a hollow tree at the Tuileries. Franklin, who was involved in occult circles, such as the Lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris and Sir Francis Dashwood's Hell-fire Club outside of London, is viewed by Richard Deacon in his *A History of British Secret Service* as merely part of the British intelligence network set up by Bancroft and others (Coleman, 1985). Furthermore, Dr. Bancroft's associate, Sir Francis Dashwood, was thought to have traveled to Calcutta and Bengal (Silver and Lasky, 1977), thus even placing him in the sphere of Tibet, the location of our story.

Tibet, Pandas and Spies

Tibet certainly was worthy of a Tom Slick adventure. The recent history of this snowy Asian plateau-fenced in by the Himalayas to its south and surrounded by the body of China to its north and east-is central to gaining insights into the interplay between the cryptozoological and cryptopolitical. Before we delve too deeply into the late 1950s and early 1960s web of yeti searches and secret intelligence, let us step back over sixty years ago to the days when the giant panda was still a cryptozoological wonder, quickly becoming a zoological prize. Tibet's lands guarded the secret of the giant panda from the West until the numerous American expeditions of the 1930s began to return with specimens for natural history museums.

The first expedition to obtain a dead giant panda for mounting was led by Kermit Roosevelt, Teddy's son. The second expedition to kill pandas was headed by Brooke Dolan of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences during 1930-1932 (Morris, 1966; Perry, 1969).

Early giant panda collector Kermit Roosevelt's son, Kermit or "Kim," was later involved in Wild Bill Donovan's Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and the postwar Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Kim Roosevelt is credited with living an almost James Bond-like existence and being the one man responsible for the 1953 CIA coup against and overthrow of President Mossadegh and his Iranian government. In 1942, when the United States decided they needed a post in Tibet to assure the Dalai Lama of American friendship, they picked the OSS for the task. Chosen for this specific assignment were the agents Lieutenant Colonel Tolstoy (emigre grandson of the famous Russian novelist) and guess who—Captain Brooke Dolan, the accomplished adventurer, Far Eastern explorer, and giant panda hunter. In later years, Tolstoy would become a general manager of Florida's Marineland, a movie producer, and cultivator of Bahamian sponge beds (Smith, 1972).

During the secret mission, Tolstoy and Dolan had first flown into India before traveling through Nepal to the Forbidden City of Lhasa, Tibet. There they exchanged gifts with the Dalai Lama, and thus cemented the American intelligence community's toehold in the region. From Lhasa, their caravan set out across unexplored Eastern Tibet toward Chungking, studying the potential route for a military road and noting on their map the sites of possible airfields (Ford, 1970). At Chungking, Tolstoy and Dolan would have no doubt run into an OSS staff member and jolly amateur chef named Julia McWilliams Child. Today, Julia Child is best known as the public television's "French Chef" (Smith, 1972). Upon their return to the States, Tolstoy and Dolan secretly received the Legion of Merit.

OSS veteran Leonard Francis Clark mentioned being in Tibet as the first foreigner since Tolstoy. Clark went on an expedition to Tibet in the late 1940s in an attempt to rally the Chinese Moslems against the Chinese Communists. In his book *The Marching Wind*, he made mention of abominable snowmen and apparently believed in them.

Yeti Searching and Covert Operations?

The vortex of intelligence operatives connected with cryptozoology seems to be especially concentrated around the mysterious figure of Tom Slick, forgotten Texas oil millionaire and yeti searcher.

How involved, therefore, was Tom Slick in covert

operations? Did the search for the abominable snowmen serve merely as a cover? We know, for example, Slick was in the foothills of the Himalayas many times throughout the mid-1950s. Was he there only for mind science research and yeti investigations? In the literature about the unknown war between the Chinese and the Tibetans, there is a mysterious episode concerning an apparent CIA agent who comes to a famous Indian bordertown to discuss setting up an arms supply line with the Tibetans. "It was in the guise of a tourist that an American came to Kalimpong in the spring of 1955.... The American who came in 1955 may have been a diplomat but he was most probably a spy. He is not further identified by the man who tells the story, George N. Patterson, a Scottish missionary who had worked in eastern Tibet, spoke the language, wrote several books about the country, and resided in Kalimpong" (Prados, 1986).

By 1958-1959, Tom Slick was running the expeditions in pursuit of the abominable snowmen from his home in San Antonio. Peter and Bryan Byrne were Slick's agents in the field. Most of the time, the Byrnes were not in the field. Instead, they would stay in West Bengal, Calcutta, Darjeeling, or other eastern Indian cities. One West Bengal city, Kalimpong, the site of the meeting between the mystery man and George Patterson, was actually viewed as a "spy center." *The New York Times* of April 4, 1959 detailed Prime Minister Nehru's one-hour news conference held to answer Chinese Communist charges that Kalimpong was being used as the base for Tibetan subversive activities. Nehru said that the city was often described as a nest of spies of innumerable nationalities, and he had been told by an informed source that there were more spies in Kalimpong than the rest of the inhabitants. The Prime Minister continued, stating that after the Communists took over in China all kinds of people went to Kalimpong under assumed identities—some as technical people, some as bird watchers, some as journalists and some as just scenery admirers.

Ornithology and Espionage: The Old Boy Network

It appears that birdwatching and spying were never far apart in the secret world of intelligence operatives. Former CIA director James Schlesinger and covert actions expert Desmond Fitzgerald enjoyed both pastimes. Birdwatching could be a useful cover. Take, for example, a person like S. Dillon Ripley. Ripley, a noted ornithologist and postwar Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, was the chief of the OSS counterintelligence branch for southeast Asia.

Film fiction has picked up this thread. In the film, *The Dogs of War*, based on Frederick Forsythe's

novel about covert operations in an African nation, the hero, played by Christopher Walken, goes to this country, disguised as a birdwatcher, to do reconnaissance for a mission. The Walken character is shown reading an African bird field guide on the flight over, to familiarize himself with the names of the local birds.

The most famous (though fictional) agent in modern popular literature is based on this ornithology-espionage connection, and the creator of this character has links to our yeti story. Peter Byrne, thanks to Tom Slick, met with many "former" intelligence individuals in West Bengal, including World War II British Intelligence officer Ian Fleming. Fleming was to become famous for his series of fictional spy books featuring the British secret agent 007, James Bond. And, of course, as most people know, the name "James Bond" was actually the real name of the author of the book *The Birds of the West Indies*, lifted by Fleming for use in his novels. The "original 007," by the way, was the English mathematician, astrologer and occultist Dr. John Dee (1527-1608). Dee served as Queen Elizabeth's personal spy. "007" was, in fact, Dee's code number, and was adopted by Ian Fleming for "James Bond" (Rosenblatt, 1989).

The networks and connections between the 1950s explorers, ornithologists, cryptozoologists and spies are under-studied, yet revealing. Ian Fleming was the brother of Peter Fleming, explorer and writer. One of the latter Fleming's most remarkable books is *Brazilian Adventure*, a work in the tradition of Percy Fawcett. Another classic is Fleming's *Bayonets to Lhasa*, an account of the British invasion of Tibet in 1904. Peter Fleming was a school-years buddy of Ralph Izard, Gerald Russell, and Ivan Sanderson—all individuals deeply involved in the search for the yeti and, to varying degrees, friends with Tom Slick. Izard led the 1954 *Daily Mail* expedition to the Himalayas in search of yeti. Russell was a member of Izard's 1954 trek and headed the 1958 Slick-Johnson Snowman expedition to eastern Nepal, and Sanderson was involved in all manner of cryptozoological investigations (including an African expedition with Russell in the 1930s) and writings, authoring the classic *Abominable Snowmen* in 1961. Sanderson was a consultant member of Slick's 1960-1962 search for Bigfoot, the so-called Pacific Northwest Expedition headed by Bob Titmus, then Peter Byrne.

Ivan T. Sanderson was a commander in the British Naval Intelligence Service from 1940-1945, assigned to the Caribbean because of his zoological experiences there. The famed cryptozoologist's wartime connections to spying apparently did not end in 1945. Sanderson gives a hint that some of his information

sources remained in the realm of the intelligence network in one passage in his book *Abominable Snowmen*. Therein Sanderson (1961) details two curious encounters with the giant hairy Tok, given to him by "a young American, then in the service of his country, who had been born in the Shan States and brought up there, his parents having been missionaries." Sanderson "was asked not to publish" the man's name.

This individual, it appears, was probably a member of the extraordinary Young family who were responsible for setting up the Burma Baptist Mission. The Sanderson contact was, no doubt, William Young, who was:

"...perhaps one of the most effective agents ever, [who] was born in the Burmese Shan States, where his grandfather had been missionary to the hill tribes. Arriving in Burma at the turn of the century, Grandfather Young opened a Baptist mission in Kengtung City and began preaching to the nearby Lahu hill tribes. Although they understood little of his Christian message, a local oracle had once prophesied the coming of a white deity, and the Lahu decided that Reverend Young was God. His son, Harold, later inherited his divinity and used it to organize Lahu intelligence gathering forays into southern China for the CIA during the 1950s. When William was looking for a job in 1958 his father recommended him to the CIA, and he was hired" (McCoy, 1972).

In the book *Uninvited Visitors*, Sanderson (1967) discusses how he was called to the Pentagon for a briefing; this is an odd event for someone who supposedly has no official ties to the government. Sanderson appears to have maintained an open line to some members of the espionage community.

Carleton Coon:

Spying, Anthropology and Cryptozoology

Peter Byrne and Tom Slick also had contact with elements of American intelligence. One of Tom Slick's earliest yeti consultants was Carleton Coon, professor of anthropology and former Office of Strategic Services agent. Coon was consulting for the Slick yeti expeditions from the very beginning, having been at one of the first meetings attended by Tom Slick's assistant Cathy Maclean, Peter Byrne, and *Life's* Jim Greenfield in Darjeeling, India, on January 16, 1957.

Within espionage circles Coon's work for the OSS was legendary. One of the first missions of Donovan's spy organization was operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa, involving agents such as Peter Tompkins who has gone on to write about pyramids. Carleton Coon was in charge of TORCH and the affair was such a success that it insured the future of the OSS. OSS's leadership, who were later connected to the

Central Intelligence Group, then the Central Intelligence Agency, would never forget Coon for his contributions to the budding American intelligence community.

Gambit, Inc. of Ipswich, Massachusetts (Coon's residence in his late years) published the small book, *A North Africa Story: The Anthropologist as OSS Agent 1941-1943* by Carleton S. Coon, in 1980. It is filled with Coon's 1940s writings of his exploits, with historical background supplied by the editors at Gambit. The book is an interesting insight into the dual life that Coon led. And the mostly code-named characters along the way hint at the overlaps that intrigue us, as well. There's "Levy," for example, a young Frenchman who Coon did not like because of the way he treated the Arabs. Coon noted, nevertheless, that this individual "claims to have been a member of a Himalayan mountain climbing expedition."

A North Africa Story details Coon's thoughts on the kind of legitimate front that worked best for OSS agents during wartime. "The question of cover is one that can only be settled by experience. We have had, however, enough experience to determine a few principles. There are two things good cover should avoid: tying the agent down with cover activities, and making him conspicuous," Coon wrote. He went on to make some further points:

"State Department cover is good in that it allows the agent to go places where he could not otherwise get; it does not take up too much of his time. It is bad in that he is conspicuous and constantly under enemy surveillance. They undoubtedly know he is an agent, but don't dare harm him in neutral territory.... Special civilian covers are useful only for special jobs of brief duration.... To be an archaeologist is silly, even if the agent is really a well-known professional archaeologist in peace time. All archaeologists are inevitably suspected of being agents anyhow even in peace time; and who cares about archaeology in wartime? An archaeologist may be very useful for his knowledge of the country, its people, languages, etc., but he must not pretend that he is still an archaeologist in war (Coon, 1980).

Coon used the cover of the diplomatic corps during World War II. Carleton Coon tied his public exit from the OSS to the time that the organization was disbanded at the end of the war. Many former OSS agents, of course, were later employed by the operations division of the CIA. Was Coon one of them? Did he change his mind and allow his anthropological career to dovetail with some clandestine activities after 1945? Coon always seemed to be working right on the fringes of the Communist bloc countries, in Iran, in Afghanistan, and so forth. Or in India and Nepal, near

Tibet.

Carleton Coon's autobiography, *Adventures and Discoveries*, extensively deals with his Office of Strategic Services (OSS) tenure and briefly with his Slick involvement.

From October 17, 1956, until March 26, 1957, Carleton Coon conducted his "Faces of Asia" trip of eleven countries. Coon wrote that a "Life side mission" investigating Tom Slick "was a minor effort during his multinational Faces of Asia" research tour. Coon called the Slick matter "sticky" because *Life* had hired him to see what Slick was up to. The names cropping up in this one-page-long section of the autobiography sound all too familiar. There's Jim Greenfield, "the New Delhi representative of the Luce empire," who seems to always be there in the background for *Life*. Was he gathering information for anyone else? Coon shows up to investigate Slick in Kalimpong, the so-called spy center of the area. When Coon moves on to Gangtok in Sikkim, he cannot be housed at the Raj Kumar's, because his guest quarters were already full to overflowing with the Dalai Lama and his entourage. Returning to Kalimpong in the dark, Coon then was hosted by Prince Peter of Greece, a shadowy figure in the yeti and intelligence story if ever there was one. Nevertheless, Coon had the unenviable position of telling Slick that Slick's search was inadequately staffed and "his plans to use helicopters, bloodhounds, and the like, were impractical."

Coon's retelling of the Slick-yeti events is confusing. From what Coon wrote, he arrived in India on December 8, 1956, and stayed in that country for 88 days before going on to Ceylon. His tour ended there in March 1957. From my Slick records, we know that Coon met with Greenfield, Peter Byrne and Slick associate Cathy Maclean on January 16, 1957, in Darjeeling, India. Coon stated that he met with Slick. Did he? Where and when? *Newsweek* noted in its February 18, 1957, issue that Slick was enroute to Nepal. On March 14, 1957, Slick arrived at Biratnagar, Nepal, to start his yeti trek. By March 26, 1957, Coon was back home. When and where did their paths cross?

What Coon was really doing in India and Sikkim with Slick, Greenfield and Prince Peter may never be revealed, but an interesting bit of data has come my way regarding his son, Carl Jr., as Carleton Coon referred to him, who was the station chief of the CIA in India during this time. When the elder Coon flew into New Delhi late in 1956, he was met at the airport by Carl Jr., Carl Jr.'s wife Janet, Major Brooks (the air attache), and John and Barbara Waller.

Here is one more noteworthy Coon tidbit. Coon wrote: "As soon as we had arrived at Clark Field [the

military airbase in the Philippines) I cabled both the air attache and Jim Thompson in Bangkok warning them of our arrival date [of December 7, 1956], but neither received the message. All hotels were full because of an international fair, but Jim wangled us a room at the Arelan Hotel, where we had as fellow guests Senator Jacob Javits and Benny Goodman's entire orchestra.

"Jim Thompson was an old OSS man who stayed on to found the extremely profitable Thai Silk Company. One day, not long after we passed through, he suddenly vanished into thin air; as far as I am aware no one knows yet what happened to him. His disappearance remains one of the most fascinating mysteries of the East" (Coon, 1981).

The Dalai Lama, Slick Denials and the CIA

While a great deal of information has surfaced over the years about the Central Intelligence Agency's worldwide covert operations activities, little is known about how deeply the CIA was involved in Tibet in the 1950s and 1960s. "It is impossible at this writing," John Prados noted in his 1986 book, *Presidents' Secret Wars*, "to give a detailed analysis of the Washington decision making for Tibet. The appropriate records remain security classified. If not for the courts, in fact, the entire discussion of Tibet in the Marchetti and Marks book, *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, would have been deleted by Agency censors."

We are forced to read accounts of the conflict in Tibet closely to get some insights into how involved some of the yeti searchers may have been. Let's start with one critical incident, the escape of the Dalai Lama from Tibet. There are denials, for example, of the rumors circulating that Tom Slick and Peter Byrne were responsible, in some fashion, for the safe passage of the Dalai Lama from Lhasa. Since the time of Tom Slick's first official yeti reconnaissance of eastern Nepal in 1957, in which he was actually a member of the trek, the rumors of his expeditions' involvement in spying have been rampant. The *New York Times* even saw fit to publish an article reporting on the Russians' promotion of this story in an item entitled: "Soviet Sees Espionage in U.S. Snowman Hunt." The April 27, 1957 piece claimed Slick was behind an effort to subvert the Chinese, and free Tibet.

What can we find in the record about the Dalai Lama's rescue? Who was behind the exit or with the Dalai Lama? Fletcher Prouty, an Air Force colonel who supervised secret air missions for the Office of Special Operations, has written: "This fantastic escape and its major significance have been buried in the lore of the CIA as one of those successes that are not talked about. The Dalai Lama would have never been

saved without the CIA" (Prouty, 1973). On March 17, 1959, all three groups, the Dalai Lama, his immediate family and senior advisors escaped from Lhasa. Tenzin Gyatso [the Dalai Lama] was disguised as a common soldier of the guard.... The best information [about the fleeing Dalai Lama] came from the CIA.... The CIA was so well informed because it had furnished an American radio operator, who traveled with the Dalai Lama's party... There may have been other CIA agents with the party as well (Prados, 1986). Who were these individuals?

George Patterson might know. Remember, he is the guy who had the mysterious meeting with an American tourist during 1955 in which parts of the CIA's war in Tibet were mapped out. Patterson, who used the cover of being a missionary (but drank, smoked and chased women with the best of the guys) was part of a unique foray into Tibet in 1964. Setting out secretly with Adrian Cowell, a British filmmaker, Patterson took off from Nepal to coordinate and film an attack on a Chinese convoy by Tibetan Khamba commandos. Patterson and Cowell were successful, but upon their return they were briefly jailed in India, and their film was suppressed and not shown for two years.

Now here's the interesting part: Who helped them get into Tibet? None other than Peter Byrne, Tom Slick's man in Nepal.

And who has written the most concerning the Patterson incident without saying too much in depth about it? None other than Michel Peissel. In his book, *The Secret War in Tibet* (1973), Peissel mysteriously kept his references to the CIA to only four small mentions in this 258-page book. Peissel discussed a good deal about the secret war in Tibet but strangely never mentioned some amazing points now well-known (due to recent CIA limited releases of information), such as the fact that the small kingdom of Mustang was the CIA-run base of Tibetan guerrilla operations. Peissel revealed that he first went to the area in the spring of 1959 with a letter of recommendation from Thubtan Norbu, the brother of the Dalai Lama, to the Prime Minister of Bhutan.... "I was off to meet Jigme Dorji, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, in the small border town of Kalimpong" (Peissel, 1966). We, of course, understand a little bit more about the importance of Kalimpong in the espionage game, as was mentioned above.

Also, we now have some facts about Thubtan Norbu. The eldest brother of the Dalai Lama was connected to the "American Society for a Free Asia," a CIA-funded organization that sponsored a series of visits to and lectures in the United States by Norbu, beginning in 1956 (Prados, 1986). Secretly, the Dalai

Lama's family was very involved with the CIA in fighting the Chinese. Gyalo Thondup, the Dalai Lama's second-eldest brother, based in Darjeeling, established an intelligence gathering operation with the CIA in 1951. Six years later, he upgraded it to an advanced CIA-trained guerrilla unit whose members were introduced to commando techniques on Guam for example, and then parachuted back into Tibet (Avedon 1984). What was Peissel's connection to the CIA? It's difficult to say.

Peissel was apparently able to obtain much "Tibet file" (as he called it) information from American and British intelligence contacts. He even reveals names that sound familiar - such as "Nyma Tsering," said to be one of the most trusted officers among the Tibetan guerrillas. Tibetan names in English are merely rough transliterations, often in different spellings. So we are not surprised to find the Sherpa "Nima Tenzing" on Slick's 1957 and 1958 expeditions, and the same individual "Nima Tshering" on Hillary's 1960 expedition. Was this person also the aforementioned "Nyma Tsering?" Were Peissel's connections woven into the espionage network?

This is the same Michel Peissel who wrote a yeti-debunking article for *Argosy* magazine in 1960 entitled "The Abominable Snow Job." Peissel mentioned that the subject of his 1966 book, Boris Lissanevitch, had been given a tranquilizer gun by the Tom Slick expedition. Peissel half-jokingly wrote that the "Indians thought Boris a Russian agent, the Russians thought him an American agent, and the Americans, a Russian agent" (Peissel, 1966). It is interesting that Peissel would show up in the Tibetan area to investigate the abominable snowman, during the critical time of the Dalai Lama's escape. Slowly, over the years, he revealed his deeper covert operations links.

Adrian Cowell, for his part, turned up in Burma in the mid-1960s filming guerrilla opium armies (McCoy, 1972) and recently has been involved in Brazilian projects. But Cowell's official biography in *Contemporary Authors* neglected to mention his Tibetan adventures with Patterson.

Something strange is going on here.

"Atomic Testing" In Colorado Anyone?

In 1959, after the Dalai Lama had been helped out of Tibet by the CIA, this same agency started sending Tibetans to America for covert instructions. The secret CIA training site for the Tibetans was Camp Hale, near Leadville, Colorado. (Coincidentally, Tom Slick's mother's family was from Leadville.) The Tibetans were silently flown out of Asia, had only one refueling stopover in Hawaii and, upon their arrival, did not even realize they were in the United States.

The intrigue surrounding this covert army is worthy of study by researchers who are looking for the techniques used in governmental coverups. Indeed, on July 16, 1959 (Prados, 1986) the CIA had:

"...planted a front page story in the *Denver Post* reporting that atomic testing-though not bomb detonation-was to be conducted at Camp Hale. The vast area of 14,000-foot peaks and valleys covered by the camp was henceforth strictly off bounds to the civilian population. People who were near Peterson Air Force Base, outside of Colorado Springs, when a subsequent group of Tibetans was flown out, found themselves detained. Up to forty-seven at a time were held at gunpoint behind army roadblocks until mysterious buses, their windows painted black, had passed by. When news of unidentified Orientals in Colorado reached the *New York Times*, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara personally had the story suppressed. As a final resort, soldiers guarding the most sensitive areas of the base-as well as the Tibetans themselves-were given explicit instructions to shoot to kill anyone found within the perimeters" (Avedon, 1984).

Names of men involved in the training at Camp Hale are difficult to locate, but it is interesting to note the connection of the one person I was able to identify, to other parts of our examination. McCoy, writing in 1972 on the secret war in Laos, discussed only a handful of highly committed CIA men there. One was Anthony Poe. Agent Poe, before his Laos work, "recruited Khamba tribesmen in northeastern India, escorted them to Camp Hale in Colorado for training, and accompanied them into Tibet on long-range sabotage missions." And which hard-working CIA agent had Poe replaced in Laos? William Young, that's who, the gentleman we met earlier because of his probable link to Ivan Sanderson and the Burmese *Tok* stories (McCoy, 1972).

While Air America, Air Asia, and even a special Nepalese airline were all involved in the transport of the Tibetans to Camp Hale, was Slick Airways part of the picture? Henry Belk (1989) told me that he believes Slick Airways was responsible for taking agents to war theaters in Southeast Asia. Were Slick Airways' activities part of the deleted Tibetan material never released by the CIA?

Disinformation Chief Involved?

And what role might have Desmond Fitzgerald played in all of this? A veteran of conflicts in Burma, Fitzgerald was very much the Asian expert in the CIA. Assistant to the head of the Far Eastern Division of the CIA's "Directorate for Plans" in 1952, Fitzgerald was described as "bright, amuent, cultured

charming, and an avid bird watcher" who "undertook the deadly business of covert operations with a light-hearted, romantic activism...during the 1950s" (Leary, 1984). We now know that by the early 1960s, FitzGerald was named head of the Special Affairs staff and was responsible for at least one disinformation incident against the Chinese using UFO reports (Good, 1988). Shortly after that, on November 22, 1963, FitzGerald, posing as a senior United States senator in Europe, handed Rolando Cubela a weapon disguised as a fountain pen for use in an assassination attempt against Fidel Castro (Summers, 1980).

Deadly serious about his work, FitzGerald was a member of the CIA's so-called "Knights Templar," a group of original CIA officers and followers of Wild Bill Donovan. They seemed to have envisioned themselves like the ancient Catholic military order founded during the Crusades as a "mysterious and tightly knit group dedicated to a sacred cause" (Hougan, 1984). FitzGerald was very involved in the Tibet situation. "Despite the refusal [of President Eisenhower and the United States government] to associate with the Tibetans openly, secret plans continued. Before his NSC [National Security Council] meeting of February 4, 1960, the President met with a group including [former Psychological Strategy Board Staff Director and at that time special assistant to the President for national security affairs] Gordon Gray, [(Secretary of State) Christian] Herter, [CIA Director] Allen Dulles, [(CIA Deputy Director) Charles] Cabell, and Desmond FitzGerald" to discuss Tibet (Prados 1986). What kinds of disinformation was FitzGerald creating for the Tibetan operations? Did any of it refer to the yeti expeditions searching the border of Tibet for traces of the creatures?

Yeti Expeditions: Spy Missions? Truth Stranger than Fiction?

Late in 1960, Sir Edmund Hillary, sponsored by the *World Book* encyclopedia company of Chicago, left on his famous expedition to Nepal in pursuit of the "Abominable Snowman." While Tom Slick's 1957-1959 expeditions may have been rumored to be espionage missions, what part did spying play in Hillary's trek? Driven by publicity and the media, most accounts of the yeti debunking affair mention only the high altitude medical testing as a subgoal of the fiasco. A few English and Italian press accounts exist confirming that one objective of the group was to spy on the Chinese in Tibet. Two rocket experts, Tom Nevison of the United States Air Force and Peter Mulgrew of the Royal New Zealand Navy, were closely watching and gathering data on the Chinese firing missiles from Tibet. Journalist Desmond Doig, Nevison and

Mulgrew were camped together at Tolum Bau glacier when they all witnessed just such a launching. Meanwhile, the Chinese were jamming the camp's radio (Coleman, 1989; Sanderson, 1961; Doig, 1960). All of the official chronicles of the *Hillary-World Book* expedition not too surprisingly fail to detail this aspect of the party's activities.

Strangely, in 1970 and 1971 two fictional accounts surfaced linking espionage activities with the abominable snowmen. The 1970 Billy Wilder movie, *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* is a story including large components of covert activities and the Loch Ness Monster. Interestingly, it also contains a segment set in the exclusive Diogenes Club where Holmes comments on the members' uncanny ability to turn up "here, there and everywhere." Then he later adds, "When there's trouble along the Indian frontier, some of your fellow members pop up in the Himalayas allegedly looking for the Abominable Snowman" (Haddon, 1987). *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* is not in distribution and difficult to locate today, aside from occasional television appearances.

Ronald Rosenblatt (1989) has informed me of another presently rare fictional work that connects intelligence agents and a search for a Tibetan mystery animal. In 1971, Jack Benton Scott's *Spargo: A Novel of Espionage* was published. The book details the activities of a renegade CIA agent who goes on a mission to Tibet and India, using a search for the so-called "Sun Bear," a supposedly extinct animal, as his cover.

Is truth stranger than fiction? During the hottest days of the secret war in Tibet in 1959 and 1960, eleven separate expeditions, including one led by the Chinese, were sent to the area on the track of the abominable snowmen of the Himalayas (Coleman, 1989; Sanderson, 1961; Dong, 1984). Were all of these merely cryptozoological investigations, or was something more covert taking place? Has the yeti been a cover story for spy missions? Until some future Freedom of Information request produces a document or an expedition member talks openly, thus giving us some hard evidence for now we are left with only a few linkages and some intellectual possibilities. Still, something seems to be afoot!

Coverup vs. Cover?

For the last few years, a great debate has raged in ufology regarding the role of the CIA and other similar organizations in the UFO field. For example, Timothy Good's *Above Top Secret*, a 1988 book, has already taken on near classic status. Its stance, taken in the first paragraph, can be summarized as indicating that a "wide-scale coverup" of the involvement of the

intelligence community in the study of UFOs is occurring. Good and others feel the government is hiding proof of the existence of UFOs.

In my cryptozoology-espionage examination, however, the reasons behind the alleged coverups seem to have more to do with hiding covers than burying evidence and special knowledge of the reality of the arcane subjects which occupy our interests. Over and over again, as we delved deeper into the subject of the Tibetan yeti expeditions and the Himalayan spy missions, the characters involved revealed a pattern of covert psychological warfare operations in their backgrounds. While in North Africa, Carleton Coon, for example, invented a mine disguised as donkey dung in order to kill Nazis. Meanwhile, in Algiers, Peter Tompkins was a member of the Psychological Warfare Branch of General Eisenhower's headquarters, conducting all manner of propaganda and direct actions, and possibly assassinations.

Desmond FitzGerald used false UFO sightings, and perhaps yeti ones also, to disrupt the Chinese. In a meeting to discuss secret activities in Tibet, FitzGerald discussed plans with Gordon Gray, among others. Gray was the first staff Director of the Psychological Strategy Board. The background to the Psychological Strategy Board is illuminating. In February 1949, President Truman created a State Department psychological warfare office. In March 1950, Truman adopted special order NSC-59 for more foreign information gathering and psychological warfare, and then NSC-74 for "A Plan for National Psychological Warfare." The President then moved quickly to get Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers for consultations. Souers supported a recommendation to create an interagency group for nonmilitary cold war activities, and Truman responded by setting up the Psychological Strategy Board (PSB) under the National Security Council in Spring, 1951.

Gordon Gray was picked as first staff Director of PSB; Gray knew Frank Wisner, Directorate of Plans, and CIA deputy director William H. Jackson and the PSB assistant Gray hired, Tracy Barnes, because they all worked for the same Wall Street law firm. Carter, Ledyard and Milburn, before WWII. At the time, the Director of Central Intelligence was Walter Bedell Smith, Gray was asked to head PSB by W.B. Smith and William Jackson. Earlier Gray had been involved in the whole setup of the Army staff's adoption of "psywar," i.e. psychological warfare, in January 1948. Although the prime mover in that area was General Robert McClure, Gray as Assistant Secretary of the Army encouraged the effort. The Army's interest in "psywar" eventually evolved into the Army's "Special Forces." PSB disbanded in 1954 for political

reasons, and Gray was exiled to the review board that sat in judgment of nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer. But Gray would be back. He served in the intelligence community for forty years (Prados, 1986).

What if the whole thrust of the intelligence community's interest in cryptozoology has more to do with covers and fronts than with a coverup of data? Diplomatic, ornithological, and archaeological covers have been used. Why not present an agent as some half-crazed cryptozoologist searching for such and such a creature in some sensitive section of a foreign country? What better "psywar" technique than to search for and then promote a variety of positions on strange and bizarre subjects, be they yetis, giant salamanders, or lake monsters?

Strange Deaths

Early in October 1962, Tom Slick had gone to a Canadian meeting of the Board of Directors of Dresser Industries. Then he had taken a hunting trip for pheasant and quail, also in Canada. Some speculate that he also checked up on his Sasquatch operations north of the border. He was scheduled to fly to Salt Lake City on the 6th. Then Slick was flying home to San Antonio to have dinner with his children. Telling me of that night only recently, those now adult children will never forget waiting for that meal.

Saturday night at about 6 P.M., October 6th, 1962, Tom Slick and pilot Shelly Sudderth of Dallas were killed in the crash of their Beechcraft Bonanza 35. This is the same kind of plane that Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper were in when they died in a wreck on February 3, 1959.

No one knows exactly how or why Slick died. Residents near Dell, Montana, reported hearing a "noise like a crash." The plane's wreckage was found forty miles south of Dillon in extreme southwestern Montana, near the town of Dell. Harold Briggs, search and rescue coordinator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the local sheriff's department, said the plane apparently disintegrated in flight. One wing was found intact and one engine was found a considerable distance from all other wreckage. Slick's bag of game birds was strewn over the area. Searchers reported that Slick's and Sudderth's bodies apparently fell free from the plane since they were not close to the wreckage. Briggs explained the backs of both seats were found together about three quarters of a mile from the bodies. The bodies, both badly burned, were found alongside a county road about three quarters of a mile from the center of the crash-site.

We do not know what caused the Slick plane to crash, and we may never discover the official verdict

either. I attempted to learn exactly what the final FAA report had concluded. I filed a Freedom of Information Act request, badgered the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board, ask the Slick family to search their files for a copy, got the able assistance of Ralph Nader's Aviation Consumer Project, General Aviation Aircraft Owners data center, and countless librarians throughout the country but to no avail. All avenues turned up empty.

Finally the FAA told me that such general aviation accident investigations are the "responsibility of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)," (Stewart, 1988).

The NTSB sent me a form letter with the date of Slick's "accident" handwritten in blue pen in the appropriate blank spot, but noting they were "unable to fill my request." The report on Tom Slick's crash investigation was required to be kept for only seven years. The letter ended, in form-letter-coldness: "The report(s) requested by you fall under the statute of limitations category and have been destroyed. Sincerely, Susan Stevenson" (1988).

I searched the Library of Congress for a possible hardcopy. No luck. Perhaps someone does have a copy of the report, but I could not locate that individual. Was he transporting bombs, or merely remembering the insect repellent? Slick was a man who avoided publicity. Was he involved in some way with the intelligence network? What hints exist in the record that there may be something to this notion?

In my book, *Tom Slick and the Search for the Yeti* (1989), I have detailed some of the theories surrounding his death. One of them centered on the explosion being caused by a bomb.

Tom Slick, a murder victim? Did his plane not get hit by lightning, but instead disintegrated due to a bomb? Far-fetched, outlandish? Yes, but among some people who were close to Tom Slick, the bomb theory ranks very high on their list of possible causes of death. One observation that Harold Briggs made that was not picked up by most press accounts was the possibility the plane could have experienced, in his words, "an internal explosion." Two sources that wish to remain unnamed quote the local sheriff's office in Montana as saying that Slick's death was murder.

More Deaths

Some of the thinking runs to the notion that Slick was an embarrassment, that he was wasting his money on his Snowmen/Bigfoot pursuits, and the only way to stop him was to kill him. Around some stove fires in the Pacific Northwest, even today, such discussions are seriously held. Folks see how suddenly that the men that had "co-sponsored" the expeditions to the

Himalayas died. F. Kirk Johnson, Sr. died within a year and Jr. within six, at 40 years old, of Slick's death, and they speculate.

Others wonder if Slick's peace work was rubbing certain folks the wrong way. After all, President John F. Kennedy would be killed in Texas, Slick's home state, only fourteen months after Slick died. Maybe the conservative forces in America were trying to send someone a message with a special Texas flare?

One of the more interesting linkages Slick had was through his role as a member of the National Advisory Board of the United World Federalists (Coleman, 1989). Founded in 1947, the United World Federalists' first president was the intellectual Cord Meyer. Suddenly in 1950, around the time that China was advancing on Tibet, Meyer left the organization's head post in the hands of liberal Alan Cranston (presently the senior United States Senator from California), and joined the CIA's covert operations division. A close associate was quoted as saying: "It was a great surprise to his friends. He was not the CIA type. He was a world government man" (Smith, 1972). In 1954, Meyer was named Chief of the CIA's Covert Action operations. Hardened by political battles with Joseph McCarthy and by personal tragedies, years later a friend would say that Cord Meyer "got Cold Warized" (Smith, 1972).

Tragedies haunted Cord Meyer. One of Meyer's sons died in an automobile accident. Then there's the story of his former wife, Mary Pinchot Meyer, JFK's last lover. Mary Meyer was killed by an unknown assailant on October 12, 1964, on a C&O towpath in Washington D.C. Much darkness surrounds Mary Pinchot Meyer's death, but it appears dozens of people connected to the JFK inner and outer circles were killed.

JFK assassination researcher John Gooch III of New Orleans has wondered aloud if perhaps Tom Slick was in on some early planning meetings regarding the Kennedy killing, backed out and was killed for knowing too much. There's that mysterious meeting of 14 individuals and Tom Slick that the FBI was watching in 1962. There's the hints and informants claims that "everyone knew Slick was helping run guns to Cuba." A deeper level of involvement between Slick and several figures in the JFK drama keep cropping up.

Tom Slick was a mystery man but his past is slowing illuminating some insights into cryptozoological and cryptopolitical intrigue in this country. Tom Slick's memorial service was held at the giant secretive Southwest Research Institute that he had created. At the end of the ceremony Dr. James W. Laurie closing prayer uttered words that seem even more

authentic today: "Truly we would thank Thee for Thy servant, Tom, who being dead yet speaks to us."

References:

- Avedon, John F. *In Exile from the Land of Shows*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
- Belk, Henry. Personal communication, 1989.
- Business Week*. "The Slicks: What Rich Men's Sons Can Do," November 17, 1951.
- Byrne, Peter. Personal communication, 1989.
- Chorvinsky, Mark. Personal communication, 1989.
- Coleman, Loren. *Curious Encounters*. Boston and London: Faber and Faber, 1985.
- *Tom Slick and the Search for the Yeti*. Boston and London: Faber and Faber, 1989.
- Coon, Carleton. *A North Africa Story: The Anthropologist as OSS Agent 1941-1943*. Ipswich, Massachusetts: Gambit, Inc., 1980.
- *Adventures and Discoveries: The Autobiography of Carleton S. Coon*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1981.
- Davies, R.E.G. *Airlines of the United States Since 1914*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1972.
- Doig, Desmond. "Chinese Jam Camp Radio." *Sunday Times*, London, Nov. 13, 1960.
- Dong, Paul. *The Four Major Mysteries of Mainland China*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1984.
- Good, Timothy. *Above Top Secret*. New York: William Morrow, 1988.
- Ford, Corey. *Donovan of OSS*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1970.
- Haddon, Jonathon. "The Swan that Wasn't a Swan." *Strange Magazine*, No. 1, 1987.
- Heuvelmans, Bernard. *On the Track of Unknown Animals*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1959.
- "The Birth and Early History of Cryptozoology." *Cryptozoology*, Vol. 3, 1984.
- Hougan, Jim. *Secret Agenda*. New York: Ballantine, 1984.
- Leary, William M. *Perilous Mission: Civil Air Transport and CIA Covert Operations in Asia*. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1984.
- Personal communication, 1989.
- McCoy, Alfred W., with Cathleen B. Read and Leonard P. Adams II. *The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia*. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.
- Marchetti, Victor and John D. Marks. *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974.
- Morris, Ramona and Desmond. *Men and Pandas*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1966.
- Peissel, Michel. "Abominable Snow Job" *de-gory*, December, 1960.
- *Tiger for Breakfast: The Story of Boris of Kaimandu*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1966.
- *The Secret War in Tibet*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1973.
- Perry, Richard. *The World of the Giant Panda*. New York: Taplinger, 1969.
- Prados, John. *Presidents' Secret Wars: CIA and Pentagon Covert Operations from World War II through Transcom*. New York: Quill/William Morrow, 1986.
- Prouty, L. Fletcher. *The Secret Team: The CIA and Its Allies in Control of the United States and the World*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1973.
- Rosenblatt, Ronald. Personal communication, 1989.
- Sanderson, Ivan T. *Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life*. Philadelphia: Chilton, 1961.
- Personal communication, 1970.
- Scott, Jack Denton. *Spargo: A Novel of Espionage*. New York: World Publishing Co., 1971.
- Silver, Pat and Jesse Lasky, Jr. "Hell Fire Dashwood." In Colin Wilson's *Men of Mystery*. London: Star/W.H. Allen & Co., 1977.
- Smith, R. Harris. *OSS: The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972.
- Summers, Anthony. *Conspiracy*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1980.

Loren Coleman is the author of several books on social problems, cryptozoology and unexplained phenomena. Coleman is employed as a research associate and associate professor at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. His 1989 book, published by Faber and Faber, Inc., *Tom Slick and the Search for the Yeti*, serves as background to some of the material explored in this chapter. Readers with further information on connections between secret intelligence, *Tom Slick* and cryptozoology—in Tibet or elsewhere—are encouraged to write Loren Coleman at Post Box 360, Portland, Maine 04112.

Steamshovel Debris: The November 22, 1993 edition of the *San Antonio Express-News* reported upon the increased publicity efforts of Southwest Research Institute, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and the Mind Science Foundation, three San Antonio research facilities that "share in common the founding imprint of the late Tom Slick, Jr.," examined briefly in Loren Coleman's book, *Tom Slick and the Search For The Yeti*. The newspaper noted that

Mind Sciences Foundation developed from an interest in parapsychology Slick developed "after one of his worldwide trips brought him in contact with an old guru who supposedly had the ability to appear and reappear in different locations," and someone whose ability to levitate Slick felt he could apply to the construction trade according to Coleman.

Prior to 1993, the Mind Sciences Foundation studied a long list of unusual phenomena, including the effects of positive imagery and visualization; the functioning of the immune system on breast cancer patients; Alzheimer's disease; spiritual healing; biological psychokinesis; relaxation techniques to lower blood pressure; extrasensory perception; clairvoyance; creativity; motivation and self-esteem; asthma and allergies. Although mind control did not make the list, Slick's predilection for similar topics when he founded the group puts an interesting spin on his possible link to the Kennedy assassination and Mary Pinchot Meyer. Despite the date of this newspaper report, it had no connection to JFK.

Executive director Catherine Nixon remarked that with regard to all this research, the foundation had

been "content to be ignored." It phased out its last "in-house" project in July 1993 but intended to continue to pursue its collaborative efforts with such allied institutions as the University of Texas Health Science Center and Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health in San Antonio.

The *Express-News* quoted foundation trustee Tom Slick III, founder Slick Jr.'s son and a businessman based in Atlanta, as saying, "I'm not sure how much of a philosophical change it is, but it's a methodological change. We're not denouncing parapsychology, but we're wanting to do other things too. My dad fostered the possibility of hitting a home run — making big, positive improvements in society... We settled on parapsychology in the early 1970s because the field had opportunity and suited the philosophy of the board. Now we want to refocus the (financial) resources we have." Mind Science Foundation has a permanent \$3 million endowment; it plans to raise additional funds through this new pursuit of collaborative grants.



Mystery oil man Tom Slick (white hair) and friends. (Photo: Loren Coleman)

Black Cars at Night: The Men in Black Reanimated

by Scott Corrales

In a recent Spanish publication, an article on features of the worldwide UFO scene wistfully mentioned "the almost forgotten Men-in-Black" in passing. The absence of these black-garbed, sinister personages, variously described as agents from a supersecret government command, an Earth-based "silencing" arm belonging to an extraterrestrial power, or manifestations of negative paranormal forces had taken some of the spookiness out of the phenomenon. However, there is mounting evidence that the MIB have not only *not* retired from the scene, but have returned with renewed vigor force.

Men-in-Black reputedly harass eyewitnesses to UFO sightings and encounters, usually turning up at their homes (or places of business, as transpired in one Puerto Rican case) usually way before the witnesses have even thought about going public with their stories. Case histories have them dressing in black suits, white shirts and jaunty red ties (the fabrics, however, have often been described as being unusual or unearthly), travelling in threes, more often than not aboard spanking new models of large, outdated cars. With notable exceptions, they seem to deliver a boilerplate warning: do not discuss the particular sighting, if a witness, or cease and desist investigation, if a ufologist.

These sartorial agents of silence have acquired mythic proportions in the UFO community over a timespan as lengthy as the phenomenon itself. From the first appearance of a black suited, red-cravatted man in the wake of the infamous Maury Island "Hoax", threatening witness Harold Dahl to silence, to a growing number of appearances in the '90s, MIBs remain an enthralling facet of the supernatural.

Early UFO sightings always ended with the involvement of the Air Force as the best qualified source of investigating the precise nature of these things. Airmen routinely turned up at witnesses' homes to ask questions, and in many instances, to confiscate evidence—such as samples of elusive "angel hair" taken from the home of journalist R. DeWitt Miller (author of *You Do Take It With You*) in 1954. When Asiatic-looking men in black suits started showing up claiming an affiliation with the Air Force, no one thought to question them, but their strange behavior—and uncanny psychic abilities—soon arose suspicion.

After being pursued by a UFO over the Mediterranean in 1951, Col. Jim Doherty was visited by a

spindly young man in an Air Force lieutenant's overcoat. The gaunt-looking fellow warned Doherty, in an oddly accented voice, to forget all about the UFO encounter. Doherty was to learn later on that there was no such officer working for AFOSI. Years after the incident, Doherty still has nightmares about his UFO encounter in which a spindly being, reminiscent of the false lieutenant, figured prominently. (1) The Air Force promptly denied any connection whatsoever to the Men in Black. A Pentagon colonel told author John Keel that they had looked into a number of Men in Black reports. The same Pentagon official stated that the UFO silencers, whoever they were, were committing a federal offense by impersonating a member of the armed forces. These trivialities did not seem to trouble the Men in Black: One such impostor, using the handle "Captain Munroe", turned up to threaten the teenage photographers of the Beaver Falls, PA UFO in 1968. The impostor told one of the young Pennsylvanians that something unpleasant might happen to him if he continued discussing his sighting. (2)

The Men in Black phenomenon soon took on a life of its own when Albert K. Bender, director of the International Flying Saucer Bureau, announced his retirement from "flying saucer investigation" and the IFSB's shutdown in 1953, as a result of harassment by three men in black. As rumors flew concerning the provenance of the trio, Bender himself would later state that they were not from the FBI, but "from another branch." (3) The Men in Black proved to have quite a long reach, as well: Edgar J. Jarrold, head of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, received a mysterious visitor who advised him that "the most fantastic situation it is possible to conceive by normal standards" (4). Jarrold would disappear mysteriously years later. Bender would try to expand on the reasons for his hasty departure from ufology in his *UFOs and the Three Men*, where he describes Kazik, the dismal homeworld of the Men in Black, and the experiences he endured at their hands (5). Bender could claim the distinction of being the first investigator to be molested by these unknown quantities, and his story would repeat itself in the lives of a number of investigators hence.

Warren Smith, a noted writer during the 1970s (under the name Eric Norman), had acquired a piece of metal allegedly recovered from a UFO in Madison, Wisconsin which had dumped "slag" (*à la* Maury Is-

land) over an interstate highway. Aware that someone was tailing him during the investigation, Smith chose to conceal the fragment of slag within a television set in his motel room. Upon returning to his room one evening, he was faced by two men who demanded that he turn over the find, threatening harm to his family if he chose not to (6).

While never caught red-handed, the disappearances of UFO related documents, even copies stored in different locations, have been blamed on Men in Black. A NJ housewife who made a one-line entry about a UFO sighting in 1973 in her diary lost the entire book, which was in a locked desk. UFO researchers Ivan Sanderson and Capt. Edward Ruppelt both had files containing UFO data stolen from their homes in break-ins where objects of value to an authentic burglar were left untouched. (7)

Men in Black were also involved in the disappearances of children. In August 1969, an alarming number of children suddenly vanished from the Brazilian town of Vilha Verde, reappearing with equal abruptness weeks later. The children had no recollection of where they had been during their absence, but their last recollection seemed to be having taken a ride in an expensive automobile driven by a "gentleman all dressed in black." (8) One girl claimed that a man in black had led her to the outskirts of town to a strange machine, having asked her to take her a ride "in his airplane", but seeing her discomfiture, gave her a handful of candies and told her to go back home. Nor have they apparently shied away from involvement in the cattle mutilations scene. (9)

John Keel, whose delving into the subject would make him the unquestioned expert in these matters documented the uncanny powers of these beings: in 1960, William Dunn Jr., a UFO investigator, had his home burglarized, his files burned, and his photos stolen. (10) Men in Black were notably active during the West Virginia "Mothman" Sightings of 1966-67 as well as in Long Island, N.Y. Far from believing them to be extraterrestrial agents, Keel introduced the concept of the Men in Black as negative, parapsychical forces whose warnings were not to be taken lightly. His sentiments would be echoed by other writers and researchers. Some, like David Tansley, believe that they are a form of demonic psychic energy—a conjecture substantiated by records from past centuries. Others opine that they are thought-forms of some sort, although whose thought-forms remains unclear. (11)

The late British paranormalist F.W. Holiday had a personal encounter with an unusual Man in Black in the aftermath of the exorcism of Loch Ness in 1978. The figure, which stood some 30 yards away from him, was six feet tall and clothed in black motorcycle

leathers with a helmet covering its features. (12) Holiday could detect no eyes behind the visor and felt "a strong sensation of malevolence" issuing from it. He walked within a few feet of it and past it, but when he turned around to look at it again, the figure had vanished.

A more mundane origin for these elusive characters, in step with the "secret government agent" theory, is that they were in fact elements of the Air Force Special Activities Center (AFSAC), devoted to non-electronic intelligence gathering, in particular the 1127th Field Activities Group, comprising a varied array of shady types, ranging from lock-pickers and impersonators to ex-convicts, whose tasks were made even easier by the paranoia surrounding the UFO community. A corollary belief is that a great many Men in Black were Tibetan monks who followed the Dalai Lama and the Khamba riders into exile, placing their uncanny prowess at the service of the CIA. While fanciful, this would certainly account for the Asiatic physiognomy and unfamiliarity with certain customs.

Some Men in Black have upon occasion demonstrated non-stereotypical behavior: In November 1973 a young woman working for an employment agency in San Juan, Puerto Rico received an afternoon visit from a man clad in an immaculately black suit with a shirt that seemed to be woven of a texture unknown on Earth. The man had extremely long, tapering fingers (as reported in other Men in Black cases) and a mannequin-smooth complexion. The woman found herself mesmerized by his conversation, which ranged from the ecology to war, along with statements such as: "there were other worlds than this one." According to author Salvador Freixedo, the Men in Black often respond positively to courteous treatment. (13)

The Men in Black seemed to have taken an extended furlough sometime in the late '70s. One of their last major appearances was in the wake of the failed hijacking of a private plane by three small UFOs over Lake Tequesquitengo, Mexico. The pilot, Carlos de los Santos Montiel, was harassed by Men in Black on his way to an interview with the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Many believe that the increased willingness to discuss the phenomenon in the wake of 1978's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* spiked the MIB's usefulness as tools of fear and intimidation.

But the Nineties have witnessed their disturbing return to the scene in a number of cases: Puerto Rican investigator Jorge Martín, editor of *Evidencia Ovni* magazine, unearthed an astonishing MIB story while interviewing the late Diego Segarra, a key witness to the Laguna Cartagena sightings. Segarra told Martín that a friend had had a chilling experience while ex-

ploring the vicinity of the lagoon, recording things on a small camcorder. The witness saw a bright flash that proved to emanate from a spherical UFO about to land. Hiding behind the dense tropical vegetation, Segarra's friend was able to see—and allegedly capture on video—jumpsuited Greys emerging from the craft, followed by a tall, albinoesque human figure clad in a black suit, white shirt, and red tie. The witness also added that the man in the black suit wore sunglasses and had silvery hair, and was whisked away by two soldiers riding a jeep—a notable step down from the ubiquitous black Cadillac.

This is by no means the first time that such an event has been recorded. A United Press International newswire circulated among the Caribbean basin's major newspapers reported an event in San Juan de los Morros, Venezuela, in which two physicians made a startling observation. On an open road near their clinic, a magenta-colored Mustang stopped to disgorge two passengers dressed exactly alike: black suits, sunglasses, and red neckties. The unusual pair immediately donned what appeared to be belts of some sort. Moments later, a UFO appeared out of the sky, coming close enough to the ground to allow them to enter via a ladder. After a 180 turn, the vehicle sped off into space. (14)

When Karl Brugger, author of the "Chronicles of Akakor" (a narration of "lost" underground cities in Brazil) was mysteriously murdered on the streets of Rio de Janeiro in January 1984, a number of South American investigators promptly placed responsibility for the crime on the HDN (*hombres de negro*, the Spanish acronym for MIB). Fabio Zerpa, editor of the now defunct *Cuarta Dimensión*, declared: "These deaths always have the appearance of being natural events, but curiously enough, every time someone has important information on a crucial subject, strange accidents seem to befall them." (15)

Pennsylvanian UFO investigator Lois Le Gros has studied a number of cases involving MIB activity in the 1990s: two witnesses, one of them an abductee, were cornered by a Man in Black in the aisle of a discount store near Pittsburgh. According to their testimony, the strange personage appeared intent on mesmerizing them with an unusual ring on one of the fingers of his hand. In a completely unrelated case, another young abductee from a Pittsburgh suburb would encounter a Man in Black every day—on her way to work.

Describing him as "intimidating", the witness told Le Gros that he would board the bus every day and gradually sit closer to her. The sinister figure wore a full-length black trenchcoat, even in unseasonable weather, and hat, shoes, gloves and shirt of the same

color. On one occasion, the stranger sat next to her on the bus, causing her to cringe against the window. In spite of the confined space on the vehicle, the witness expressed a belief that she may well have been the only one to have noticed the sinister, outlandishly dressed character.

Another Pennsylvanian researcher, Mike Lonzo, interviewed the protagonist of a singular case: an elderly woman witnessed the fall of a strange black stone into her backyard, and almost immediately after, received the visit of two tuxedo-wearing MIBs who demanded—in no uncertain terms—the return of the black stone, claiming that its loss would "bring about the destruction of their universe." Frightened, the woman complied with their request, and there was an even more amazing turn of events: her tuxedoed visitors invited her out to dinner at a Pittsburgh restaurant, where they were joined by their female counterparts (it is unclear if they, too, were clad in ever-fashionable black). (16)

The strange "reanimation" of the Men in Black seems to have adapted itself to the belt-tightening Nineties: travelling in twos rather than threes, using public transport rather than the obligatory Cadillacs, and departing UFO landing sites in humvees or jeeps. This should not be surprising, given the phenomenon's propensity toward mimicry of the human condition. The fact that they have returned from their improbable reality to trouble our own, however, should be a cause for concern.

Notes:

1. Drake, Rufus. "Return of the Men in Black," *Saga UFO*, Oct. 76, p.39.
2. Steiger, Brad. "Three Tricksters in Black," *Saga UFO Report*, Winter 1974, p.42.
3. Barker, Grey. *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, University Books, NY, 1956. p.143.
4. Barker, p.156.
5. Bender, Albert K. *Flying Saucers And The Three Men*, New York: Paperback Library, 1968.
6. Randle, K. *UFO Casebook*, New York: Warner Books, p. 229.
7. Drake, Rufus. *Return of the Men in Black*, p. 154.
8. Freixedo, Salvador. *Ellos*, Mexico: Posada, 1989. p.179.
9. Howe, Linda. Conversation on paranet BBS 22 Jan 1988.
10. Keel, John. "Strange Riddle of the Men in Black," *Saga UFO Report*, Spring 74, p.76.
11. Gordon, Stuart. *The Paranormal*, p.438. London: Headline Books, 1992.
12. Holiday, F.W. *The Goblin Universe*. St. Paul:

Llewellyn Books.

13. Freixedo, S. *Visionaries, Mystics and Contactees*. Lilburn, GA: Illuminet Press, 1992.

14. Freixedo, S. *Parapsicología y Religión*, Madrid:

drid: Quintá, 1985, p. 201.

15. Conversation with Mike Lonzo, 8/27/94.

Undeclared War Exists Faxed by Norman Olson

At this writing, police authorities report that Timothy McVeigh and another suspect, identified now only as John Doe #2, left the scene of Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal Building in separate cars. Moments later, of course, the terrible bomb mayhem occurred at the building, killing an as yet undetermined number of people, over 100, including many children. McVeigh and some comrades previously had been asked by the leaders of the Michigan Militia—a homegrown, Second Amendment, paramilitary outfit similar to many across the country—to leave the group apparently because their strident views about the use of violence became embarrassing.

After the bombing, police pulled McVeigh over for speeding in a car with missing license plates, arrested him for carrying a concealed weapon, and later charged him with the crime. It has not been determined if McVeigh did not know if the plates were already missing or if they had fallen off during the getaway. His partner, however, suffered no similar calamity and remains on the loose, perhaps with the license plates fastening screws sitting next to a screwdriver on the front passenger seat of his car. In any event, Timothy McVeigh has not come to be regarded as a criminal genius.

Shortly after McVeigh's arrest, the leader of the Michigan Militia issued the following as an explanation for the Oklahoma City bombing incident:

*PLEASE FAX ACROSS AMERICA
OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING EXPOSED
PLEASE REFAX ACROSS AMERICA*

*FROM: NORMAN OLSON, COMMANDER, MICHIGAN MILITIA CORPS
TO: THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Attention, Citizens of America - Undeclared War Exists*

The wrath of the country has been directed toward the brave men and women of the Michigan Militia Corps. Now the truth: On April 19, 1995 a day that will live in infamy, the government of Japan, in retaliation for the U.S. gas attack on the subway there, blew up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

The Japanese attack was reported to Sarah McLendon, McLendon News Agency on April 18, just hours before the destruction of that building.

FBI employee Robert Goetzman (operating out of the executive office of the Bush presidency, and hav-

ing "dual agency" status with CIA), CIA employee Wes Thomas and U.S. Intelligence employee, James Cofield, were hired by the Japanese Embassy at the beginning of the Clinton presidency to bug the executive offices of the President. These men had lost lucrative programs assigned to them by Bush and although not out when Clinton became President, they were out of funds. (A great deal of money had been deferred while under Bush, to their own private accounts to the extent that they were setting up their own private companies.) Once bought by the Japanese, these men were paid through MCA/Universal (owned by the Japanese) to provide intelligence information gathered from the surveillance devices and bugs Goetzman has installed inside the surveillance devices and bugs Goetzman had installed inside electronic devices (computers, faxes, etc.) in order to win the Japanese trade war going on at that time. The U.S. and Japan had completely lost cooperation on the trade talks and threatened sanction deadline against Japan. Japan retaliated by devaluing the dollar against the yen, which was trading at its lowest amount ever recorded on the day of the subway attack.

Walter Mondale gained knowledge of the espionage activity on Jan 27, 1994, the day before sanction deadline and attempted to have the matter investigated. The source of this information contacted William Perry for protection and assistance after learning of Justice Department employee Paul Coffey's attempt to kill the investigation. CIA director, John Deutch, was in charge of the investigation into the matter.

In retaliation of the attack against the dollar, the U.S. government gassed citizens of Japan to discredit the government. The Japanese government, not willing to reveal their own espionage, blamed the act on a religious cult with a massive disinformation effort. In retaliation the Japanese destroyed the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. To further embarrass the President, a copycat bomb was used so that the Arab people would be blamed by U.S. citizens. With anger growing toward the Mideast the Feds had to find a quick scapegoat, so they triggered CNN and ABC.

They were visible, there were many of them, and a recent "non-incident" had occurred in Michigan involving "Rambo" talk about blowing up some junk Russian armor. It was the Fed's only card to play. Surely someone could be found inside Michigan to hang. But this is where they made their mistake. American patriots in Michigan don't kill patriots in

Oklahoma. Their suppressed sacrificial lamb climbed off the altar and became a Wolverine.

The actual target of the Japanese was in fact the senior Secret Service agent (whose widow and orphaned child sat behind Clinton and Hillary at the memorial service) who was "in the loop" with Goetzman, et. al. He had been transferred to OKC only months earlier. His death was a symbol that the President and the nation are "touchable."

The President knew, Janet Reno knew, William Perry knew, Mondale knew, Stephanopoulos knew, Panetta knew, CNN knew, ABC knew, the CIA knew, the FBI knew. And now the American people know the truth.

The top five conspirators are: Robert Goetzman, Dan Starkey, Wes Thomas, Paul Steel, and Jim Cofield. Peter Stanley and Walter Mondale did all they could to stop it, but no one listened and those who listened could not talk.

President Bush's CIA controls the presidency. To make that point clear to Clinton, the CIA hit Vince Foster as a reminder of who really runs the roost. The war between agencies has escalated into undeclared war between Japan and America. The American people are paying the price. Expect blackmail actions by Japan. The governments of both countries may soon collapse under the weight of their own corruption.

Signed, Brigadier General Norman E. Olson,
Commander, Michigan Militia Corp

Esther 7:10: So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

On April 28, after Olson released this fax and made similar comments to a television station in Chile, the Michigan Militia asked him to resign as its head—a second dismissal for reasons of acute embarrassment. The communications director for the militia, Ken Adams, remarked to the Chicago Tribune that "Norm has been under tremendous stress and lack of sleep, which affects everyone's judgement." As it turns out, the rant was not even original: it actually originated with a woman named Debra Van Trapp, sans the vaguely anti-Semitic biblical reference to Haman, an enemy of the Jews. Sherman Skolnick (see chapter 8) explored the dimensions of this version of events in Oklahoma City at length in an interview with Ms. Von Trapp that appeared on Brian Redman's highly recommended electronic newsletter, Conspiracy Nation, available at bigxc@prairienet.org. Normam Olson re-emerged during a June 1995 Senate hearing on the militia movement, provoking Senator Arlen Specter (R.-Pa.) into an angered insistence that Olson point to proof of his charges of government corruption. Olson missed the opportunity to mention the Magic Bullet Theory, the physics-defying explanation of the bullet trajectory that killed JFK, which Specter authored.

Carlos Castaneda; Criticism and Conspiracies

by Tom Lytle

Carlos Castaneda is the popular writer whose autobiographical books on Yaqui sorcery have sold into the millions. It has been stated that after Margaret Mead, he is the most well-known American anthropologist. His books and lectures chronicle his initiations into shamanic secret societies and traditions, some written while studying to obtain his Ph.D. in anthropology from UCLA. After he earned his degree, more adventures were chronicled. His books are very compelling and original, very mystical in appearance, and very readable.

According to *Time* magazine, Castaneda wrote his first unpublished works centering around Don Juan in about 1956. This happened eleven years before his first book was published. He also had a co-author at the time named Alberta Greenfield. Castaneda titled his first unpublished manuscript about Don Juan and shamanic magic, *The Whole World Sounds Strange. Don't You Think...?* Response within Castaneda's circle of friends was so great regarding these unpublished works that he abandoned painting in favor of writing.

Eleven years later, in 1967, UCLA anthropology student Carlos Castaneda presented a copy of a manuscript he had written to a professor for comments, titled *The Teachings of Don Juan*. Very impressed, the professor encouraged Castaneda to submit the work to the University of California Press for consideration. In late 1967, three editors of UC Press read the work and recommended it for publication. Retitled *The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1968), UC Press released it on June 27, 1968. At the time college students and a young America were becoming openly exposed to drug experimentation and alternative politics through the Vietnam war protests, Timothy Leary's LSD evangelism was in full bloom, and Castaneda's books were absorbed directly into the mainstream of sub-cultural America. At its peak, the second printing of *The Teachings of Don Juan* sold over 16,000 copies a week!

Like Timothy Leary, Castaneda set the standard for what psychedelic drug use might be, or could be. It also started a sort of hero-worship or "celebrity cult" within consciousness studies, or psychedelic studies. Another celebrity-cult had started up about that time, around New York banker R. Gordon Wasson. Wasson published a *Life* magazine article regarding Mexican shaman Maria Sabina and the ritual uses of Mexican "magic mushrooms." Wasson was an

amateur expert on psychedelic mushroom cults and had published many well received books.

These three men, Leary, Wasson, and Castaneda, more or less started psychedelic anthropology studies. Today this science calls this ethnopharmacology. Hundreds of books, magazines, science papers, movies and journals centered around serious looks at ritual, culture and the rare-plant or drugs used by magicians and shamans. My own journal, *Psychedelic Monographs and Essays*, focuses partly in these areas. As a gauge of the popularity of psychedelic studies and ethnopharmacology, my journal is sold in thirty countries. These three men started this popularity back in the 1950s.

All three gentlemen also battled each other alternatively for notoriety and celebrity status. Wasson and Leary openly despised each other's works and often said so in print. Castaneda often said Leary was his main competitor, although when the two met in person Castaneda tried to get Leary to initiate him into Leary's Mexican research group called IFIF (the International Federation for Internal Freedom). Wasson and Castaneda exchanged many letters, with Wasson being most skeptical to Castaneda's claims. These letters are on file at Harvard at the Botanical Museum.

By 1971 a Castaneda sequel was released entitled *A Separate Reality* (Pocket Books, 1971). This also was an extremely popular work, and further explored Castaneda's apprenticeship to the Yaqui sorcerer named Don Juan. At no time was a person named Don Juan ever photographed, interviewed (except by Castaneda) or established as real. However, Castaneda did provide detailed descriptions of Don Juan, and an assistant named Don Genero. Several other well-known and popular Castaneda books emerged in the next few years, with the latest entitled *The Art of Dreaming* (Harper-Collins, 1994).

All these books more or less center on the same theme, Yaqui Indian sorcery and a credentialed anthropologist's initiation into the alternative worlds of the Brujos and Curanderos. These are types of Meso-American shamans that heal or harm, talk to spirits and more or less act as local soothsayers. Castaneda originally presented all the material as matter-of-fact anthropology, real adventures with real people. Real descriptions of real hallucinogenic plant uses and ritual occur throughout his books and were—and are—often mimicked by the readers. Real magic and sorcery, brought back to us like the adventures of Indiana

Jones. Much interest in dream research, alternate dimensions, witchcraft, Indian lore, initiation, and psychedelics were instigated through Castaneda's works.

What Plants Were Used to Train Castaneda?

Castaneda described three main hallucinogens in his books used by Don Juan to train him in sorcery. The first is jimson weed, or datura. The second is psilocybin mushrooms. The third is peyote, a cactus.

In his first books, Don Juan taught Castaneda to "fly" through uses of jimson weed, and to smoke a magical blend based in mixtures of psilocybin mushrooms and other herbs. Castaneda mostly focused on the visions of these trips, what he saw and who he encountered while intoxicated, strange physical effects and never gave actual locations or places where these plants were obtained.

Don Juan would tell Carlos what was actually going on. He translated the often bizarre places Carlos ended up in by biting off more than he could chew with these psychedelic plants. Castaneda often encountered a being called Mescalito, an Indian divinity. The word Mescalito is derived from the same root as mescaline, a psychedelic chemical or drug derived from the peyote cactus. Jimson weed was also called Devil's Weed by Castaneda. It is also called "loco-weed" by Mexicans. This is a very common plant/drug used by Meso and American Indians like the Huichol and the Tepacano.

In medieval Europe, witches claimed to be able to fly, though uses of jimson weed. Datura is very deadly also, although there are healing applications. The most famous fatality is Abraham Lincoln's mother, who died after drinking cow's milk tainted with Datura. In those days this was called "milk sickness."

Castaneda gave such detailed and powerful descriptions that many readers actually traveled to Mexico to search for these magical plants. A July 1970 story in the *New York Times* spoke about "thousands of hippies...invading Mexico in search of the 'magic mushrooms'." Psilocybin mushrooms and peyote are also used for divination and healing purposes by shamans all over the world. Peyote is illegal in most of the US and Mexico but the Indian Native American Church uses it for religious purposes off and on, depending on the laws surrounding Indian religious uses, which seem to change every other year.

In the US and Mexico, types of psilocybin mushrooms are picked out of cow pastures by hippies, amateur mycologists and the curious. They often grow in cow manure. Psilocybin mushrooms are one of the most powerful hallucinogens known to man.

Unpublished Castaneda:

What Is Really On His Mind?

I have just finished a new book manuscript titled *Psychedelics Reimagined*, four hundred pages of essays on hallucinogens and hallucinogenic drug culture. My agent, Bernard Shir-Cliff, represented Castaneda at one point, so I have had numerous conversations about the old days, his going to lunch with Castaneda and all the behind-the-scenes business.

One chapter of my new book contains new, unpublished material by Carlos Castaneda from the 1968 period, the time of his first book *The Teachings of Don Juan*. This material is based on original recordings, supplied by researcher David Christie.

Castaneda apparently tried to use his powers to find lost treasure and money. I quote from some of the questions and answers Castaneda gave before a private audience at that time. The following are never-before-published, verbatim quotes from Carlos Castaneda:

"I've been involved with hunting treasures lately...A Mexican came to me and told me there was a house that, uh, belonged to a man who apparently stored a lot of money and never used a bank...He figured and calculated that there was at least \$100,000 dollars and he asked if I could discover where the money was. *Laughter*. So I, um, followed this ritual. It was a minor vision; not as clear as a divination procedure. But it was a vision that could be interpreted. A fire has to be made that attracts whatever it is that has to be attracted. So this bunch of about four people and I, they all did the ritual. We waited for a vision and nothing came at all. We dug up the whole house and the guy that was digging, he got bitten by a black-widow spider [author's note: Carlos Castaneda means 'Charly Spider' in Spanish].

"...So I have this dream. A dream in which the owner of the house points to the ceiling...So I was walking on the beams and this guy got very suspicious; he thought I was going to cheat him out of his money - we never did...He came up...He got hooked, you know, with his legs dangling in the upper part...

"...I went to see Don Juan, and I told him of this fathire...and he said this was very natural...what is left of a man guards whatever he is hiding."

Further Castaneda Conspiracies

While Castaneda's books contain a lot of power, so do many of his critics. Most of these criticisms focus on inconsistencies in his storytelling, confused or false anthropology, inaccurate quotes, wrong geography, and unsubstantiated ethnography. Castaneda seems to have regularly "pasted together" various places and people. Indian tribes get combined and ap-

pear in wrong locations, or one character's activities get draped over another's. Actual anthropology field-notes about Yaqui or Huichol territory get combined or cut-up and remixed or exaggerated. Important things regarding authentic Yaqui ritual, for instance, are completely overlooked or left out of descriptions.

The first main series of criticisms appeared in 1976 by Richard deMille, titled *Castaneda's Journey: The Power and the Allegory* (Ross-Erickson, 1976). A follow-up book in 1980 by DeMille was titled *The Don Juan Papers: Further Castaneda Controversies* (Ross-Erickson, 1980). Both were very popular books. In them, experts in Yaqui and Huichol culture repeatedly contradict Castaneda's claims. Experts in ethnopharmacology and hallucinogens also contradict many of Castaneda's claims regarding the effects of certain drugs or plants. These two books are explosive and disturbing, and still in print.

Authentic scholars like peyote expert Dr. Weston La Barre, author of *The Peyote Cult* (Schocken Books, 1969) lambasted Castaneda for faking data and misleading the public. A Yaqui Indian expert from UCLA—the original Castaneda publisher—Dr. Ralph Beals requested Castaneda's field notes several times. Castaneda never supplied anything, in fact, to four other anthropologists from UCLA. Many other critical publications have appeared, further fueling book sales, and controversy.

My just-released book, *Psychedelics: The Most Exciting New Materials On Psychedelic Drugs* (Lyle Stuart/Barricade, 1994) has a chapter called "The Breaching Of Don Juan's Teaching." This chapter, by author Ray Clare, attempts to determine where Castaneda originally got his shamanic ideas. One source seems to be a tribe of Yaqui shamans called the Pascolas. The Pascolas are clown shamans involved in tricksterism and burlesque. Part of the tradition of the Pascola involves taking actual ceremony or tradition and distorting it, lampooning it, much like Castaneda may have done with real Yaqui ceremony. My book contains photographs of an actual Pascola clown-shaman connected with a cult called the Trembling Instrument Tribe, a Yaqui cult possibly connected to ancient Toltec magic. The Toltecs preceded the Mayan and Aztecs, as well as the Yaqui Indians in Mexico. Little is known about the religious practices of the Toltecs. Ray Clare believes that Castaneda derived the Don Juan Matus character from the Spanish word *Matus*, short for *Methuselah*, or "old wise man." French poet Antonin Artaud also saw versions of the Pascola while in Mexico, and described them in detail in his 1950s book, *The Peyote Dance* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1976 [1948, 1st ed.]).

Dr. Jay Fikes' has recently produced a new

ground-breaking book, *Carlos Castaneda, Academic Opportunism In The Psychedelic Sixties* (Millennia Press, 1993). It attempts to implicate three UCLA anthropologists, Dr. Myerhoff, Dr. Furst and Dr. Delgado, in deliberately faking or distorting scholarly information supporting Castaneda's Ph.D. thesis and books. These three scholars helped Castaneda get his book contract through the University of California Press. Dr. Fikes reveals that several actual shamans were used to model the fictitious Don Juan Matus. These included an Indian named Ramon Medina and Mexican shamaness Marina Sabina.

Some of the more amazing claims described and then discredited in Fikes' book include:

1. Dr. Myerhoff claims to show an Indian sorcerer (later known to be the informant Medina) actually "flying." Furst called this photo "strikingly similar to...Don Juan's feats." This later proved to be a totally staged photo (with no field notes) taken well outside Chapalanga Huichol territory.

2. Dr. Furst and others repeatedly sold Medina to UCLA as a sacred Huichol "singer", trying to make him a saleable celebrity. In fact, a "singer" must make at least ten peyote hunts and serve as Huichol temple officer for five years or more. Medina never represented himself in this manner.

3. Dr. Myerhoff recounts the many sexual feats of Medina. It is well known experts that a *maracame* (shaman healer) must live a totally pristine monogamous life.

4. Several anthropological experts including the very respected Dr. Weigand, accused Dr. Furst and Dr. Myerhoff of "representing data derived from the artisans of Western Mexico as if it were a presentation of the life or world view of the indigenous [Huichol] shamans."

This book also includes important descriptions and color photos of actual Huatacame and Huichol ceremonies. Once you see the real thing, Castaneda's plastic versions of these rituals stand out more. This book is so provocative and accusing that at least one of the doctors in question, Dr. Furst, threatened a lawsuit for slander if the tone wasn't downplayed. Another storm cloud comes from the soon to be published book by authors David Christie and Margaret Castaneda, Carlos's ex-wife. The Castaneda marriage ended on a bad note, expect a tell-all.

Author Richard Alan Miller (*The Magical and Ritual Uses of Perfumes*, Destiny, 1989; *The Modern Alchemist*, Phanes Press, 1994) also makes unsubstantiated claims that he was under contract by Simon and Schuster to help ghost-write and provide new ideas and background for Castaneda. This surrounded the *Tales of Power* writing sessions. Miller also claims to

have met Don Genaro, although it is more likely he met Juan Medina. While I haven't seen the Simon and Schuster contract, Miller is a respected author and lecturer, with dozens of books in print.

In Conclusion

Carlos Castaneda started a revolution within consciousness and New Age circles. He took modern America into the world of the shaman like no one has ever done, before or since. He definitely helped start the psychedelic revolution and Americans' fascination with natural hallucinogens like peyote and psilocybin. He also popularized the new age celebrity, Indian and Shamanic market places, magazines like *Shaman's Drum*, *Woman of Power* and *Magical Blend*, and countless workshops. Fire-walking, sweat-lodges, sacred rattles, dream pillows, etc., got a huge boost through Castaneda's original works. Literally hundreds of books on Indian shamanism and New Age shamanic meditation, drumming or fortune-telling exist because Castaneda made these things popular and saleable. *Careers have been made writing books that dispute his books!* A whole market has developed originally rooted in Carlos Castaneda. In this sense, he was—or

is—a prophet. Whether his ideas and books represent truth, or a version of the truth, is still in dispute. His work has engendered a new network of seekers, both on the street, in the university and even "on-line" through the Internet and services like *America On-Line*. He certainly has created a well from which millions of people have drawn.

This communication and community is the important aspect. If anything, Castaneda has left this as his legacy. He built a network from which other important information and art will emerge. Getting people to talk about the earth, about traditional spirituality, about natural healing and real spirituality is important now more than ever. Whether Castaneda is trickster or prophet remains to be seen, and the end this may not be as important as the community he serves.

Thomas Lytle has published over seventy articles and seven books on states of consciousness, shamanism and hallucinogenic drugs. His latest is titled Psychedelics: The Most Exciting New Materials On Psychedelic Drugs (Barricade/Lyle Stuart, 1994).

Caries, Cabals and Correspondence

To the Barnes Review:

I agree with Mark Lane and Fletcher Prouty that all forums for open debate about history should be encouraged, so I welcome *Barnes Review*. As you may know, such a debate regarding the Liberty Lobby has developed in the pages of *Steamshovel Press*.

Many *Steamshovel* readers regard the Lobby as "fascist." The view is only strengthened by your use of the racist term "pygmies" to describe anyone who finds something wrong with siding with the Nazis in World War II ("Leon DeGrelle Redux," *Barnes Review* #1). The suggestion that the history of the Jews, lesbians, blacks and American Indians is not a genuine interest of historians but rather the result of "political correctness" also does little to enhance the *Review*'s credibility as an open forum. In fact, it suggests that your journal is more mainstream than it pretends, in these days of white, male, Republican anger.

The Lobby, and I presume the *Review*, counters that its sympathies are populist, not fascist. One good way to pursue this line of historical inquiry would be for the *Barnes Review* to publish a point-by-point revisionist analysis of Scott McLemee's recent article in *Covert Action* (Fall 1994) linking Willis Carto and the Lobby to groups like Gerald L. K. Smith's Christian Nationalists. Please accept this suggestion in the spirit of open inquiry the *Review* claims to defend.

No less a source than William S. Burroughs has pointed out that fascism generally includes an element of imperialism. With this in mind, Harry Barnes' philosophy, as expressed in "Revisionism And The Promotion of Peace," seems more grounded in xenophobia than fascism. In the days of California's Proposition 187, this again moves *Barnes Review* in the mainstream of American thinking. As ever,

Kenn Thomas

Thank you so much for your good letter of January 29. I'm sorry that I am ignorant of the debate in your publication regarding Liberty Lobby. Perhaps you will be kind enough to bring me up to date.

Liberals have a very uninformed knowledge of fascism. It seems, this term was developed by Mussolini to describe his system. Mussolini practiced im-

perialism and so attacked Ethiopia.

However, Hitler, the interpreter of national socialism, although described as a fascist and though his regime had many, many similarities to Mussolini's, was anti-imperialism, and he, in fact, offered to the British to assent to their continued control of their overseas dominions and colonies and stated that Germany had no designs on the African colonies taken away from it in the Versailles Treaty. Hitler was anti-communist and pro-Britain.

So you see, Mr. Burroughs doesn't know what he's talking about and I just wonder if possibly the reason that Harry Elmer Barnes as well as all the other "isolationists" and the non-interventionists were opposed to foreign meddling is because they felt—perfectly correctly as it turned out—that intervention in the affairs of other nations is not and was not in the interest of the United States. It is amazing to me to note that internationalists and liberals, who are always bellyaching about racial equality, feel that they are so superior to everyone else that they have the right to blunder around all over the world telling all other people how to run their own affairs—while the United States is going down the tube.

I think it is puzzling that you say the term "pygmies" is racist. Pygmies exist and they are small people. Sorry about that.

As for Scott McLemee's article in *Covert Action* I did not read it. Numerous copies were sent to me but there is so much of that crap I don't have time to read it. In addition, I wouldn't answer because: 1. it would take a book or more to deal with what McLemee covers; 2. my record speaks for itself to those who are concerned about the survival of the West, which I'm certain McLemee is not; 3. this is not a proper subject for the *Barnes Review* and 4. McLemee is a hack doing a job for the Stern interests who own and control that funny magazine. If *Covert Action* was anything other than a CIA operation, why doesn't it tell the truth about the CIA's assassination of John Kennedy, as our attorney, Mark Lane, has done for twenty years? Judge McLemee's sputterings by the source.

Thanks again for writing. Sincerely,

Willis A. Carto
Washington, DC

Book Reviews

The Cambridge Crank Tournament: Transformational Grammars Ride Out To Joust With Statistical Control or Demonization in the Service (?) of Truth

by Roy Lisker

Rethinking Camelot

by Noam Chomsky, South End Press, 1993

In Retrospect

by Robert S. McNamara, Times Books, 1995

"Blood lust has its merits, but money talks even louder."

—Noam Chomsky in *Rethinking Camelot*

"Statistics," he smiled, "McNamara dotes on statistics, but I've never been able to make head nor tail of them."

—Sam Adams in *War of Numbers*

I begin by invoking an image, utterly fantastic of course, no doubt scientifically impossible yet which, given the utterly incredible character of all things that we do know about the planning, execution and aftermath of the Kennedy assassination, is no more improbable:

In the days following the events of November 22, 1963, a team of doctors from some neurological research institute, secretly funded by the CIA, are dispatched to Bethesda Memorial Hospital and to Dealey Plaza. Mission: to sweep up, collect or confiscate as many fragments of the grey matter one sees on the Zapruder film, extruding from JFK's skull at the moment of impact. These bits of his brain are carried back to the institute, cleaned in chemical baths, reconstructed with the help of computer enhancements with meticulous care, and so forth. The ultimate purpose of this macabre paleontology? To determine, from the suggestions of the remaining thought traces, which of these two words is inscribed in the residual pulp: "WITHDRAWAL!" or "ESCALATION!"

Thirty years later we find this very question at the center of a storm of uniquely quaint academic irrelevance. Journalists, writers, politicians and scholars heatedly engage in the lists, swinging their maces, lances, chains, battle-axes at one another under the opposing banners, "withdrawal" versus "escalation", as if the very survival or demolition of the age-old Yankee dream pivoted on this single issue.

For Noam Chomsky the question is so serious that he has devoted an entire book to its resolution, although only a small portion of its pages really focus

on the matter at hand. The rest of it is filled with hysterical shrieking, name-calling, accusation, rant, and other staples of Chomskian rhetoric. In addition, most of that part of the book which supposedly deals with this pressing concern is given over to snide attacks on John Newman's exhaustive research effort on the same issue (*JFK and Vietnam*, which at least sticks to the point).

Newman concludes that JFK would have pulled us out of Vietnam, and darkly suggests that his resisting to the pressures put upon him to commit ground troops was one of the key factors in the decision to assassinate him.

Chomsky's thesis is that - but before I present his thesis I want to say a few words about his peculiar rhetorical style. Although Noam Chomsky has gambled (and won!) his scientific career on the dogmatic insistence that a sentence must have a clear, unambiguous meaning to be acceptable as true English, his own writing conjures up whirlwinds of irrelevancies, almost always in the accusative mode, from which it is often impossible to extract any coherent meaning.

To take one example out of many: in two short pages of *Rethinking Camelot* (28, 29), he rambles on, in series and in parallel with scarcely any discursive connection, about:

(1) Andrew Jackson's genocidal war against the Seminole Indians.

(2) The evil soul of the historian Tacitus, who made the mistake of communicating the very astute observation that "Crime once exposed has no refuge but in audacity." Chomsky labels this "The Tacitus Principle". In some places he calls it, "The vile maxim of the masters of mankind".

(3) The POW/MIA smoke screen

(4) The re-arming of the Khmer Rouge in 1980s

(5) The corruption of Thailand by the West

(6) France's insistence in the 19th century that Haiti pay a huge indemnity for the crime of winning its revolution.

(7) The suppressed accounts of brutal treatment of Italian and German POWs during WWII by the US and Britain. None of this has anything at all to do with the thesis of *Rethinking Camelot*. It takes a bit of work to discover what this thesis is, but by pasting together bits and pieces scattered through the book, it seems to go something like this:

(i) In 1492, Europe launched a 500 year long genocidal war against the human race.

(ii) The Vietnamese war was the most recent and the most horrible chapter of that war.

(iii) It really ought to be called "Kennedy's War", because JFK pursued it with an insane zeal second only to Hitler's hatred of the Jews.

(iv) JFK was a right-wing fanatic, which is why he enthusiastically supported a terror state in Vietnam up to 1961.

(v) The decisive escalation of the war from indirectly supported state terror to direct naked aggression was done by JFK in August of 1961.

In addition to these 5 points, there are several buzz-words, some of which we have already seen. They reiterate through the text like the Leitmotifs of Wagner's operas: the 500 year conquest; the Columbian era; Kennedy's war; Kennedy's escalation; the masters of mankind; the cultural managers; the merchant warriors; the Kennedy cult, etc.

It is easy to parody of this style, which I dub "academic neo-Maoism". Here is an example:

"Invoking the Tacitus Principle, the masters of mankind have instructed the cultural managers of the 'liberal' academy and the Free Press to delude the oppressed victims of the 500 year European war on mankind as to the well-laid conspiracies of the military-industrial complex and the Tri-Lateral Commission..."

You can say anything you want with this style of writing; it is neither literature, journalism or scholarship. It is more like a "vile, nefarious, conspiratorial blood-bath, an infamous assault on language and truth!", which should not surprise anyone who knows how his linguistic theories achieve the same ends by other means.

Once in awhile, Chomsky does manage to state his thesis in a reasonable way. On page 33 he writes: "As Kennedy took office, the US position seemed to face imminent collapse. Kennedy therefore escalated the war in 1961-62."

We now look through the book to discover what this initial escalation consisted of. On page 23, he tells us: "On October 11, 1961, Kennedy ordered [...] 12 planes especially equipped for counter-insurgency warfare."

This, which Chomsky would have us believe is a massive escalation, did not occur in August, but in October. What then does he mean when he states in several places that this fundamental rupture of the threshold 'twixt peace and war occurred in August? Examining the record, available from many independent sources, we realize that what he's talking about wasn't devised by Kennedy at all. Instead he's alluding to the infamous Taylor-Rostow recommendations, prepared for and approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These called for:

- (1) Helicopters manned by American pilots
- (2) Air Force units manned by Americans
- (3) 10,000 combat troops

(4) Contingency planning for US air strikes, in both the South and the North.

From this amazing shopping list, Kennedy approved only (1) and (2). In fact, as Newman tells us, Kennedy stunned the Joint Chiefs of Staff in his memo of November 22, 1961 (NSAM#111) with his firm refusal to commit ground combat troops.

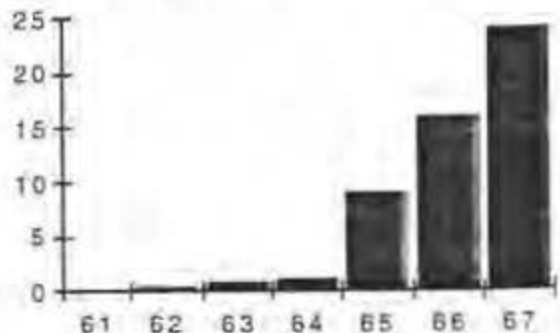
This doesn't sound like escalation: if anything one gets the picture of an embattled man trying to keep a hoard of rabid dogs at bay by throwing them a few airplanes!

When we speak of escalation, we want to use the word in a reasonable way. The extreme right wing of the anti-abortion movement tells us that *any* contraceptive device is a "murder weapon"! One of the very important features of the Vietnamese war is that, when seen from the inside, it appears like a series of blunders made by lots of people with a wide range of intentions through idealism, patriotism, fanaticism, greed, stupidity, incompetence, delusion, and so on.

Seen from the outside, that is to say in much the same way as the Vietnamese themselves saw it, it looks more like the explosion of a supernova, or the collapsing of a Black Hole: A natural phenomenon unfolding in a manner that clearly follows deterministic physical laws, although we may never be able to write them down or even know what they are.

This undeviating chain of events goes right from the withdrawal of the French in 1955 to the departure of the Americans in 1975, through Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

I therefore propose that we, in order to determine what we mean by an "escalation", draw a graph representing the official figures for the numbers of American military personnel in Vietnam from 1960 to 1968.* This graph doesn't give us any information about the intensity of the bombings, the loss of life, the destruction of the countryside and so on, but it does provide a very rough index on which to pin the mounting intensity of the war:



VIETNAM:
ESCALATION IN UNITS OF 20,000 TROOPS

* This chart has been put together from data supplied by *The Encyclopedia of the American Military*, Vol II, Scribner's, 1994, and "The Limits of Intervention." Townsend Hoopes, Murray 1970

Notice the regularity of the curve from 1960 to 1964: were Chomsky to content himself with the argument that JFK was something different from the peace-loving humanitarian that certain people like to imagine him as being, he would certainly have a case. It is true that the number of military advisors sent to Vietnam rose from less than 800 in 1960 to 16,000 by the time Kennedy was killed. This is an escalation of sorts, and it comes down to what one means by escalation. It also implies that we must be careful not to smudge the line of demarcation between "Kennedy" and the "Kennedy Administration", a nicety that never phases Chomsky. Although if these terms were freely interchangeable it is unlikely that Kennedy would have been assassinated. Nor do I think that JFK ought to be excused for his part in precipitating the eventual catastrophe.

However the number of troops in Vietnam jumps from about 40,000 at the beginning of 1965 to over 180,000 by the end of the year! The slope of the Kennedy engagement is 5,000 soldiers per year; that of the Johnson engagement after the Tonkin Bay resolution is 150,000 soldiers per year, a 30-fold increase.

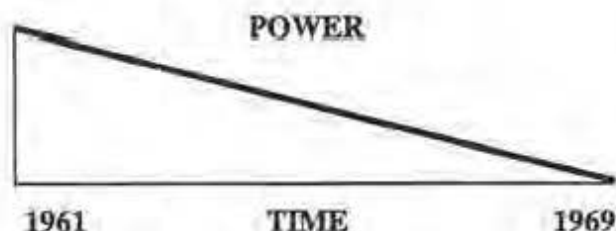
Is abortion murder? Did Kennedy escalate? I've the impression that the abuse of language is at about the same level.

The most balanced view out of all those I've encountered in the literature seems to me to be that of Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. in his biography of Robert F. Kennedy, in which he writes:

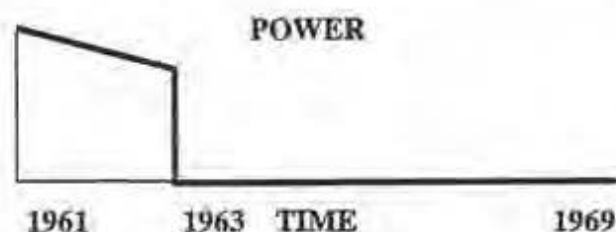
"... Kennedy's Vietnam legacy was dual and contradictory. He had left on the public record the impression of a major national stake in the defense of South Vietnam against communism. He had left steadily enlarging programs of military and economic assistance. He had left national security advisors who for three years had been urging an American expeditionary force and a total commitment to the salvation of South Vietnam. On the other hand, he had consistently refused to send such a force or make such a commitment. He had left a formal plan, processed successfully through the Pentagon, for the withdrawal of advisors by the end of 1965. He had left a public campaign, belatedly begun, to instill the idea that American involvement must be limited in a war that only the South Vietnamese could win. And he had left private opposition, repeatedly and emphatically stated, to the dispatch of American ground forces." (*Robert Kennedy and His Times*, Arthur M. Schlesinger, 1978,

Vol II, pg. 738.

I can use my graph of the escalation as a lead into a discussion of the Robert S. McNamara memoir: for he too presents a graph. McNamara, as he tells us, minored in mathematics when he studied at Berkeley. That he did so appears to be one of our national tragedies. McNamara drew this picture for Kennedy as a kind of lesson to him on the wise use of power:



As in so many of McNamara's projections, this would only come to demonstrate once more his incompetence in the design and interpretation of mathematical images for the understanding of the real world. The historically accurate graph is this one:



Robert S. McNamara's major contribution (of which he is quite proud) to the advance of science and civilization lies in the application of a subject called "statistical control theory" to problems of higher management. It is a methodology which he and a team of like-minded geniuses at the Harvard School of Business Administration developed in 1945. They were then able to sell it and themselves to the Ford Motor Company where they became known as the "Whiz Kids". It is a mystery to me why Ford is still in business.

Statistical Control of an enterprise begins with drawing up a (finite) list of "vital signs", numerical variables that are judged to be reliable indicators of success or failure. Records on them are kept up to date and diligently monitored. Their increase is taken as evidence of success or health. If they begin to fall you see what has to be done to reverse the trend, so that they once again begin to rise (is it indelicate to use the word, "inflate"?)

Let us give McNamara the opportunity to explain

statistical control in his own words, (Page 237):

"Since my years at Harvard, I had gone by the rule that it is not enough to conceive of an objective and a plan to carry it out; you must monitor the plan to determine whether you are achieving the objective...I was convinced that...we could find variables that may indicate our success or failure. So we measured the targets destroyed in the North, the traffic down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the weapons seized, the enemy body count, etc...Critics point to the use of the body count as an example of my obsession with numbers. 'This guy McNamara', they say, 'he tries to quantify everything'. Obviously there are things you cannot quantify: honor and beauty for example. But things you can count you ought to count. Loss of life is one when you are fighting a war of attrition."

One doesn't know where to begin in response to this astonishing confession. Clearly his degree from Berkeley in economics, with a minor in math, gave him a familiarity with statistics but no notion of how to use them correctly. If you chose a variable which you intend to monitor, you must try to determine if

(1) This variable is a reliable measure of progress or defeat:

A variable such as "body count" was in fact very effective in the context of Nazi Germany in which the objective was genocide. The Germans kept close tabs on the numbers of Jews being exterminated. But when the objective is "to thwart the morale of dedicated Communists", body counts are ridiculous.

(2) That the methods used in gathering data are giving you accurate numbers: Collecting accurate figures for the 'death toll of the enemies soldiers' under battle conditions, and in a situation in which one could not distinguish friend from foe, was simply impossible. The officers of the ARVN would then inflate these figures several times, because they knew that the Americans wanted high body counts. Another inflation would occur when the Americans transmitted what they had been given to the upper command, because they knew that McNamara was obsessed with statistics.

But the ugliest part of this farce came when, as anyone can discover through a little research, is that McNamara wasn't even honest with these figures, that he himself scorned his greatest discovery in the history of pseudo-mathematics!

There happens to be another book standing right now on the shelves of the bourgeois bookstores, which tells us a great deal about McNamara's contempt for the American people and for his own methods: "The War of Numbers: An Intelligence Memoir", by Sam Adams (Steerforth Press, 1994). Adams was (he died in 1988 of a mysterious heart attack) the ex-CIA agent

who, on January 23, 1982, went public on CBS with detailed information on the extent to which the Pentagon was systematically falsifying the official figures on VC casualties and the Order of Battle (OB). This led to General Westmoreland's libel suit against CBS and the long stream of public revelations that came out during the trial.

Here are the relevant passages from Adam's book (page 212):

"MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) discovered its vast underestimate of Vietcong numbers in late 1966....At this point, the main resistance against one came from the Pentagon, including the office of the secretary of defense, Robert S. McNamara. As McNamara explained to an aide in late January, he realized that the official OB was all wrong, but that he was not yet prepared to tell Congress. He meant what he said. On 6 March 1967, he briefed a Congressional committee using the official numbers, the same ones he knew to be low..."

One morning, shortly before the start of the scheduled conference, a colonel from J-2 stopped by Lynn's desk with the suggestion that the strengths at which Lynn was carrying his six VC units were 'way too high'. Lynn denied it, at which the colonel simply picked up Lynn's strength sheet, crossed out the numbers by each regiment, and penciled in new ones, on the average one-third lower. To Lynn's amazement, a unit which he had carried with 3,100 men became 1,900 instead...Gorman remarked that by early September, 'You could march a VC regiment down the hall, and they wouldn't put it in the OB...'

"An order arrived (Sept 1967) from Secretary McNamara's office saying that McNamara wanted the newly agreed upon OB number of some 240,000 to be 'retroactively readjusted'..."

"The 'retroactive readjustment' took place in the third week of September...the readjustment was simple. A J-2 officer chalked a curve on a blackboard. On the right hand end of the curve he wrote the number agreed upon at the Saigon conference 241,000...He stepped back to look at the curve from a distance, then returned to the board to write 285,400 next to August 66 and 204,700 next to August 65."

It is possible to establish a connection between McNamara and Chomsky, in that their contributions to pseudo-science were both concocted and developed in that cradle of American crankiness, Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is my conviction that our future historians will come to recognize that the twin presence of Harvard and M.I.T. in the same place made Cambridge the most dangerous city in the whole United States, more than New York, Chicago, Miami or even Washington, D.C. It is ideas, ultimately, that restore

or run the world, and in terms of the density of sinister thinking, much of which has been actualized in our own day, there are few places that compete with Cambridge: pragmatism, Skinner boxes, Behavioral Modification, Cybernetics, Artificial Intelligence, statistical control, transformational grammar, strategic hamlets, sociobiology, apologetics for nuclear power, electronic battlefields, Bean-Bayogian psychotherapies, etc., etc. Cambridge is decidedly not for the timid.

Quite apart from his theories and their "retroactive readjustment", the problem with all of McNamara's memoir is that he is one of those persons whose professional careers have so conditioned them to compulsive lying that they actually become incapable of formulating true statements. Were McNamara to be injected with a truth serum, sodium pentathol for example, nothing about him would change: his sincere state is one in which he is relentlessly speaking in falsehoods.

Despite all the apologetics and disclaimers in the memoir, McNamara was a ferocious, even demented, hawk, all through the Vietnamese war, and if he did express some reservations from time to time, it must only have been because he was afraid of the possible reckoning to come. It was certainly no accident that he was the person charged, on August 6th, 1964, by the Johnson administration to recount that monstrous fabrication of half-truths, fantasies and lies, the Vietnamese attack on the destroyer Maddox, that led to the Tonkin Bay resolution and the real escalation of the war.

On page 95, McNamara finds time to contribute his own opinions to the grey matter debate. He adds nothing new to what is already known and, as usual, is primarily concerned with covering his own ass:

"What would John F. Kennedy have done if he had lived? I have been asked that question countless times over the last thirty years. Thus far, I have refused to answer for two reasons: Apart from what I have related, the president did not tell me what he planned to do in the future....

"...But today I feel differently. Having reviewed the record in detail, and with the advantage of hindsight, I think it highly possible that, had President Kennedy lived, he would have pulled us out of Vietnam. He would have concluded that the South Vietnamese were incapable of defending themselves, and that Saigon's grave political weaknesses made it unwise to try to effect the limitation of South Vietnamese forces by sending U.S. combat troops on a large scale. I think that he would have come to that conclusion even if he reasoned, as I believe he would have, that South Vietnam and, ultimately, Southeast Asia, would then be lost to Communism....

"...So I conclude that John Kennedy would have eventually gotten out of Vietnam rather than more deeply in. I express this judgment now because, in light of it, I must explain how and why we - including Lyndon Baines Johnson - who continued on in policy-making roles after President Kennedy's death made the decisions leading to the eventual deployment to Vietnam of half a million US combat troops."

It should come as no surprise to anyone that he finishes this passage by throwing the blame onto the shoulders of LBJ who, it could be argued, was only responding to the dubious statistics that McNamara was feeding him.

There is, in this entire book, only one passage that one can trust as being reasonably truthful. This is a transcription, on page 65, of a private memo sent by Kennedy to Henry Cabot Lodge in Saigon on September 17, 1963, the eve of the coup that ousted Diem and Nhu. I don't think that even McNamara would dare to tamper with the historical record, so we can assume that Kennedy really wrote the things that are presented here:

"CAP 63516

"EYES ONLY PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE. DEPT. PASS IMMEDIATELY. DELIVER ONLY COPY. NO OTHER DISTRIBUTION IN DEPT. WHATEVER. FROM THE PRESIDENT.

"1. Highest level meeting today has approved broad outline of an action....program designed to obtain from GVN if possible, reforms and personnel necessary to maintain support of Vietnamese and US opinion in war against Viet Cong...

"2. We see no good opportunity for action to remove present government in near future.

[...]

"4. (a). Diem should get everyone back to work and get them to focus on winning the war...A real spirit of reconciliation could work wonders on the people he leads; a punitive, harsh or autocratic attitude could only lead to further resistance.

"(b). Buddhists and students. Let them out and leave them unmolested. This more than anything else would demonstrate the return of a better day and the refocussing on the main object at hand - the war

[...]

"(d) Secret and combat police - Confine its role to operations against the VC - and abandon operations against non-Communist opposition groups thereby indicating clearly that a period of reconciliation and political stability has returned.

"5. Elections - These should be held, should be free, and should be widely observed.

"6. Specific reforms are apt to have little impact without dramatic, symbolic move which convinces Vi-

etnamese that reforms are real...this we think would require Nhu's departure from Saigon and preferably Vietnam at least for extended vacation. We recognize the strong possibility that these and other pressures may not produce this result, but we are convinced that it is necessary to try.

"9. Meanwhile there is increasing concern here with strictly military aspects of the problem, both in terms of actual progress of operations and of need to make effective case with Congress for continued prosecution of the effort."

This memo is quite interesting, because it does lend some credence to Chomsky's view that Kennedy would not have pulled out the troops, but definitively refutes the notion that he supported the structure of a "terror state" and had no concern for human rights. The phrases highlighted in sections 5 and 6 are striking examples of black humor. They are a coded message for "dump the Diems," or it shows that Kennedy was living in a kind of cloud cuckoo land, quite typical of the American establishment which believes that, no matter what the realities of the situation, some naive application of "democracy" is a cure for all ills.

To conclude this comparative assessment of the views of Chomsky and McNamara as to what really happened in Vietnam, I should only state why I think that Chomsky's bitterness is to some degree understandable. This indeed gives his ideas some merit:

Chomsky is really angry at Kennedy because, being the ignorant preppy and self-styled liberal that he was, he didn't have the good sense to choose people like Chomsky for his Brain Trust, that group of intellectuals, largely associated with Boston and Cambridge who were given the privileged taste of real power for awhile as advisors to the president.

I agree with Chomsky in this matter. Who can seriously argue that an intelligent crank like Chomsky would not have been a better choice for Secretary of Defense than an utter dumbbell like McNamara? Or that a dedicated anarchist radical like Howard Zinn would not have forged a better foreign policy for us than a faluous creep like McGeorge Bundy?

There exists in Boston and Cambridge (and in some other university circles), even today, a groaning, grumbling underground of embittered intellectuals, all mad as hell because the American government has never understood that they have to be mollified and ought to at least be listened to. Look at Mitterand's France, with its *Pouvoir Intellectuel*!

Among these we may count Chomsky, Zinn, Robert Coles, Seymour Mellman, Robert Jay Lifton, etc., etc...and, in the younger generation, myself; all of us so many guilt-ridden prophets of doom. You might call us the "Jeremiahs of the coffee table."

Shootings from the Hip and Shootings from the Lip But Jesse's Only Joking

by John Kimsey

It's Dec. 17th as I write this and the White House has just undergone its monthly dose of target practice. Yes, as of today, one more set of stray bullets has somehow found its way to within inches of the highest office in the land, this time while the first family slumbered inside the building, apparently undisturbed. According to CNN, the Secret Service is not sure whether this incident represents an act of aggression directed against the presidency per se; the latest bullets fired into the White House, they explain, may have been discharged in an unrelated—and unsolved—shooting which occurred nearby.

Yeah, right.

This is the third such incident in approximately three months: there was the plane crash/suicide incident of Sept. 12; the assault rifle attack of last month (recently confirmed as an actual assassination attempt) and now this. (*Steamshovel Debris*: On Dec. 20, yet another shooting occurred just outside the White House, this one by the police who shot and killed a homeless man. In the days following, another man with a gun was arrested trying to climb the White House fence and another, claiming wrongly to have a bomb in his car, also was arrested near the White House.)

Well, hey, what can you say? There is, after all, a "strong anti-Clinton sentiment" among the voters, chuckle some. Others observe that there are just a lot of lone nuts out there willing to take potshots at the president (a fact demonstrated, these folks sagely opine, by the history of the 1960s). Anyway, still others say, all these jokers *missed*, so what's the big deal?

Clearly though, a pattern is emerging, and it's a pattern worth looking at in context. Part of the context is the rhetoric that has been used, consistently, by prominent voices of the radical right. Three or so weeks ago, that underestimated wit Jesse Helms was quoted in a North Carolina newspaper as claiming that the anti-Clinton sentiment among military people of his close acquaintance was astonishingly high. (And by the way, *that's* a comforting democratic image, isn't it—an armed forces full of kissers-up to Jesse Helms?) This was a few days after Helms had stated, on network TV, that Clinton was unfit to be commander in chief. If Helms told the newspaper, President Clinton comes down North Carolina way to inspect any god-dang military bases, "He'd better bring a bodyguard."

Har de har. Beside being a US senator, Republican Helms is soon to be head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, one of the most powerful positions in government. Consequently, a few complaints were heard (from some pedantic nitpickers, one imagines) about the voicing of such sentiments by a person with so much power and responsibility. When the tiny squeaks of disapproval emerged in the press a few days later, Helms—and numerous prominent defenders—were quick to say that the Senator had only been joking, speaking off the cuff, etc. and anyway, who do these media types think they are, roasting a loud-mouthed racist cracker politician for just doing what comes naturally?

But in fact, most of what passed for "criticism" simply ascribed the remark to Helms' quaint, wacky way of expressing himself, to his abrasive, call-'em-like-he-sees-'em style, so offensive to snooty liberal types, but much beloved by his populist constituency. Here is journalist John Monk, in a widely circulated story from the Knight-Ridder news service:

Helms is known for standing his conservative ground

—ripping liberal targets with passionate... attacks that frequently offended....

At the same time, he has pleased many Americans who felt he was voicing truths that other politicians were afraid to utter.

Such conduct, the commentators further suggested, was deplorable, but mostly because it was *de-classe*—vulgar and embarrassing, like breaking wind in a confessional booth.

Of course, Helms does have a history of making bigoted, unfunny "jokes" and spewing ultra-rightist insults at liberal icons. This is the distinguished gentleman who, after a Senate debate about the use of the Confederate flag as a state symbol, stood in an elevator singing "Dixie" in the face of Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, saying he was going to keep doing so "until she cries." And this is the American statesman who argued against the establishment of a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King because King was, he alleged, a communist sympathizer who had "hostility to and hatred for America."

Such are the "truths" that other politicians are, in journalist Monk's words, "afraid to utter." Of course,

David Duke, a politician—as well as ex-Nazi and ex-Klansman—utters such “truths” all the time, so perhaps, while we’re at it, we should applaud him as well for fearlessly speaking the “truth.” Why, veritable Ministers of Truth they are, Helms and Duke, worthy of the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell’s 1984. Its motto was “War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength.” Its stock in trade—shades of current talk radio—was a state-controlled exercise in demonization called the “Two-Minute Hate.” A strained comparison? Not to worry; like other eminent truth-speakers, I’m only joking.

Yet Helms is a man who, in other contexts, has expressed grave fears about the power of words and images to harm or corrupt, and about the fragility of American institutions in the face of free speech irresponsibly wielded. This is, after all, the man who made an enormous national issue of the “degenerate art” of Robert Mapplethorpe and Andres Serrano, and who loudly questioned the right of such expressions to even exist. According to Helms, the utterances of Mapplethorpe and Serrano—even though made in complex images rather than words, in art galleries rather than the national press and before an audience a fraction of the size of the Senator’s own—were dangerous threats to American values, assaults on our very way of life.

Unlike, say, a US senator making threats on the life of the president.

And this in a country where a Surgeon General can be hounded from office by a reactionary lobby because her sane, scientifically nuanced remarks (take a look at what she really said, as opposed to the caricature painted by right-wing propagandists) about AIDS and drug policy offended said lobby’s twelfth-century sensibilities.

Had she just sung “Dixie,” maybe Dr. Elders could have kept her job. It seems to have worked for Jesse.

But let us pause, for if we take up double standards here, we’ll never see the end of it. Can you imagine the firestorm if a Democrat had said about a Republican president what Helms did about Clinton? Or consider the following: Early reports on last month’s assault rifle assassination attempt by Francisco Duran noted that Duran’s pickup truck was plastered with right-wing Limbaugh-oid bumper stickers and slogans, a detail that was quickly dropped from subsequent reports on the incident. Imagine what the coverage—or the treatment of the alleged assailant—would have been like had he been a leftist.

The past year has seen other such “incidents.” Last January, Ronald Gene Barbour, an unemployed limousine driver from Orlando, FL, was arrested on a

charge of threatening to kill Clinton. Armed with a .45 caliber automatic pistol, Barber was loitering suspiciously around Clinton’s jogging routes, this after being overheard threatening to kill the president. And Barbour, it turns out, is a big Dittohead. In a story carried by both *New York Newsday* and the *Flush Rush Quarterly*, the jailed Barbour is quoted as telling Washington’s WUSA-TV,

“I like Rush, I sure do. I love his polemics on Clinton. He’s a disgrace to the country. He should be where I’m at. He’s a criminal. He’s a public enemy.”

Of course, Limbaugh has run a nonstop campaign to demonize the Clintons, regularly referring to them as an alien occupational force and describing America as “held hostage by Clintonistas.” Now this might seem like a call for some “patriot” to Stand Up and Do the Right Thing. But, lest you think Limbaugh is inciting violence, Rush assures us that, like Sen. Helms, he is only joking. He is, after all, merely an entertainer.

But make no mistake, such remarks, uttered widely and without cease by prominent people, help create the climate in which such incidents occur. Sure, these guys may be lone nuts, but even if they are, one has to wonder what it takes to tip them over the edge and in the direction of shooting at the president. Continual references to Clinton as an “enemy of the American people,” endless smears, jokes about him needing bodyguards—these may well serve such a function. This is the purpose of all campaigns of demonization (consider the Nazi propaganda about Jews): to make violence against the targeted individual or group more conceivable, possible and, finally, permissible.

Consider the case of President Kennedy. When he arrived in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, he was greeted by a newspaper ad calling him a communist collaborator as well as by ubiquitous posters displaying his picture, mugshot style, under the heading, “Wanted For Treason.” And at this point in Kennedy’s controversial tenure, this sort of thing was nothing new. In April 1963, an anonymous flier had been circulated among Miami’s Cuban exile community that read:

“Only through one development will you Cuban patriots ever live again in your homeland as free men.

“Only if an inspired Act of God should place in the White House within weeks a Texan known to be a friend of all Latin Americans.”

The implied question: Who will rid us of this troublesome president? And no matter whether you think Kennedy was killed by a lone nut or a conspiracy, you have to wonder whether such a climate did not contribute to making the assassination conceivable, possible and, finally, permissible in the mind or minds

of whoever was behind it.

With amusement that is almost palpable, the Knight-Ridder story describes Helms as a tough customer who "shoots from the lip." In a country that prizes free speech, even intolerant dogmatists like Helms, Limbaugh and Pat Robertson—no friends of certain kinds of speech—have the right to speak their tiny minds. They may indeed "shoot from the lip" with unsubstantiated smears and provocative remarks

about Clinton's fitness, patriotism and personal safety. When others start shooting from assault rifles with bullets, we can comfort ourselves in the knowledge that Helms, Limbaugh and company were only joking.

Now: all rise for the Two-Minute Hate.



Police examine the body of the murdered Mary Pinchot Meyer on a towpath along the Potomac River in Washington D.C., October 13, 1964. (Photo: Loren Coleman)



Brian Redman, of the e-newsletter *Conspiracy Nation* (bigxc@prairienet.org), and Sherman Skolnick, at the River Flame restaurant near Chicago, April, 1995.

DAYTIME, NIGHTTIME, ANYTIME
WATCH OSI 74!



OUTER SPACE
INTERNATIONAL

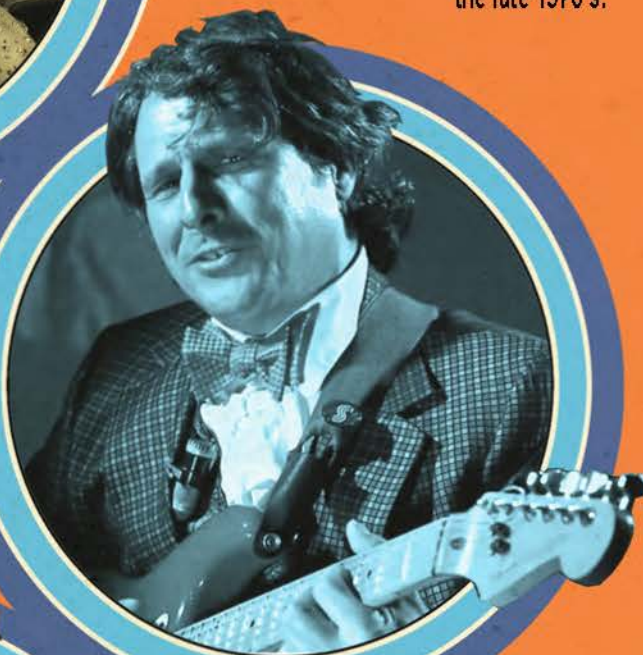


PANTRY MANOR

Burlesque sensation
BUNNY GALORE
hosts episodes of her
fabulous, long run-
ning soap opera from
the late 1970's.

MIDNIGHT FRIGHTS

ERIC MILLER's won-
derfully odd show
from THE BYRD the-
atre in Richmond, VA.
SPOTSWOODE and
his Midnighters watch
classic campy flicks.



"REACH FOR
THE SKY!"



SUPER-8 ACTION THEATRE

KARLOS BORLOFF
presents a giant
monster mash-up
for the kids! Enjoy
homemade Sci-Fi
movies and fun
special guests like
MR. LOBO.

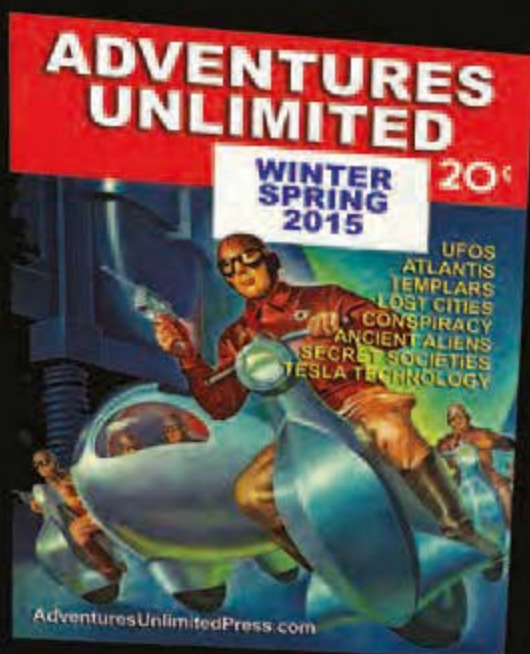


COMING THIS FALL!
VISIT OSI74.COM



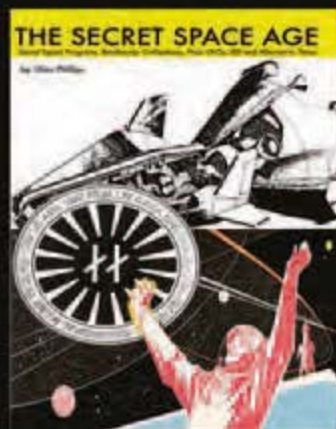
ON NIGHTLY FROM 8PM TO 12AM PACIFIC
[HTTP://WWW.GROUNDZEROMEDIA.ORG](http://www.groundzeromedia.org)

ADVENTURES UNLIMITED

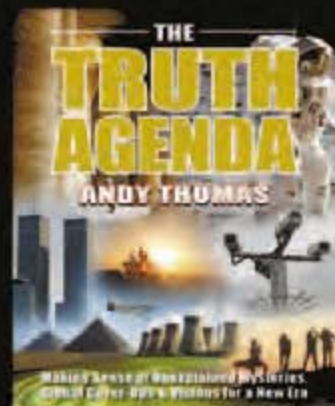


**Get Our Free
64-Page Catalog
Full of Unusual
Books
& DVDs**

Adventures Unlimited
 PO Box 74
 Kempton, Illinois 60946
 Our Customer Service Center:
 Phone: 815-253-6390
 Fax: 815-253-6300
 Email: auphq@frontiernet.net
www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com



The Secret
Space Age



The Truth Agenda

CONSPIRACY CHANNEL

1000'S OF HOURS OF **CONSPIRACY**, **UFO** AND **PARANORMAL** FILMS & SERIES



USE COUPON CODE "**STEAMSHOVEL**" AND GET 2 MONTHS FREE

CONSPIRACYCHANNEL.NET



STEAMSHOVELPRESS

ALL CONSPIRACY. NO THEORY.

**DID YOU ENJOY THE ISSUE? TELL YOUR FRIENDS!
WHY NOT SEND THEM THIS COPY? IT'S OK!**

**VISIT [HTTP://WWW.STEAMSHOVEL.PRESS](http://www.steamshovel.press) FOR MORE
FREE ISSUES AND AMAZING ARTICLES!**